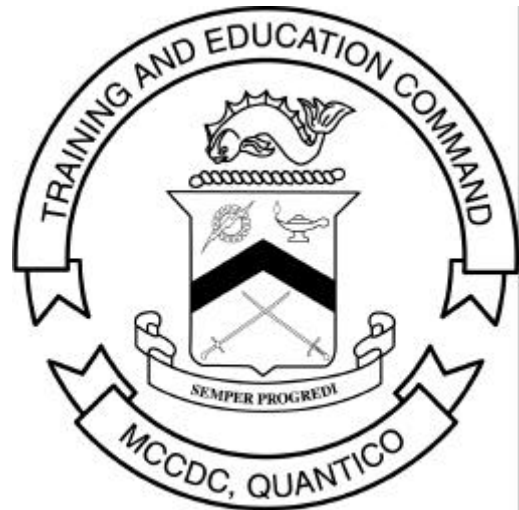


MARINE CORPS INSTITUTE



PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP

MARINE BARRACKS
WASHINGTON, DC



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS INSTITUTE
912 CHARLES POOR STREET SE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20391-5680

IN REPLY REFER TO:

1550

Ser 2563

2 May 05

From: Director

To: Marine Corps Institute Student

Subj: PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP (MCI 0090)

1. Purpose. This course provides the individual Marine with the fundamentals of safely maintaining, handling, and firing the M9 service pistol. This course focuses on developing quality marksmanship techniques to be applied in both combat and annual qualification settings.
2. Scope. The course teaches all Marines the basic concepts of the M9 service pistol, the principles of weapons handling critical to developing safe and consistent weapons skills, and pistol marksmanship.
3. Applicability. This course is intended for instructional purposes only. This course is designed for the Marines.
4. Recommendations. Comments and recommendations on the contents of the course are invited and will aid in subsequent course revisions. Please complete the course evaluation questionnaire at the end of the final examination. Return the questionnaire and the examination booklet to your proctor.

T.M. FRANUS

By direction

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Table of Contents

	Page
Contents.....	i
Student Information	iii
Study Guide	v
Study Unit 1 Introduction to the M9 Service Pistol	1-1
Lesson 1 Characteristics and Capabilities	1-3
Lesson 2 Cycle of Operation	1-15
Study Unit 2 Weapons Handling	2-1
Lesson 1 Weapons Commands, Condition Codes, and Remedial Action ...	2-3
Lesson 2 Weapons Carries, Transports, and Transfers	2-27
Lesson 3 Disassembly, Assembly, and Preventive Maintenance	2-43
Study Unit 3 Marksmanship Fundamentals	3-1
Lesson 1 Aiming, Trigger Control, and Breathing	3-3
Lesson 2 Firing Positions	3-15
Review Lesson.....	R-1

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Student Information

Number and Title MCI 0090
PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP

Study Hours 7

Course Materials Text

Review Agency Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Doctrine Division (C 42)
3300 Russell Road, Suite 318A
Quantico, VA 22134-5021

Reserve Retirement Credits (RRC) 2

ACE Not applicable to civilian training/education

Assistance For administrative assistance, have your training officer or NCO log on to the MCI home page at www.mci.usmc.mil. Marines CONUS may call toll free 1-800-MCI-USMC. Marines worldwide may call commercial (202) 685-7596 or DSN 325-7596.

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Study Guide

Congratulations Congratulations on your enrollment in a distance education course from the Distance Learning and Technologies Department (DLTD) of the Marine Corps Institute (MCI). Since 1920, the Marine Corps Institute has been helping tens of thousands of hard-charging Marines, like you, improve their technical job performance skills through distance learning. By enrolling in this course, you have shown a desire to improve the skills you have and master new skills to enhance your job performance. The distance learning course you have chosen, MCI 0090, *The Pistol Marksmanship*, prepares all Marines to fire, handle and maintain the pistol safely and effectively.

Your Personal Characteristics

- **YOU ARE PROPERLY MOTIVATED.** You have made a positive decision to get training on your own. Self-motivation is perhaps the most important force in learning or achieving anything. Doing whatever is necessary to learn is motivation. You have it!
- **YOU SEEK TO IMPROVE YOURSELF.** You are enrolled to improve those skills you already possess, and to learn new skills. When you improve yourself, you improve the Corps!
- **YOU HAVE THE INITIATIVE TO ACT.** By acting on your own, you have shown you are a self-starter, willing to reach out for opportunities to learn and grow.
- **YOU ACCEPT CHALLENGES.** You have self-confidence and believe in your ability to acquire knowledge and skills. You have the self-confidence to set goals and the ability to achieve them, enabling you to meet every challenge.
- **YOU ARE ABLE TO SET AND ACCOMPLISH PRACTICAL GOALS.** You are willing to commit time, effort, and the resources necessary to set and accomplish your goals. These professional traits will help you successfully complete this distance learning course.

Continued on next page

Study Guide, Continued

Beginning Your Course Before you actually begin this course of study, read the student information page. If you find any course materials missing, notify your training officer or training NCO. If you have all the required materials, you are ready to begin.

To begin your course of study, familiarize yourself with the structure of the course text. One way to do this is to read the table of contents. Notice the table of contents covers specific areas of study and the order in which they are presented. You will find the text divided into several study units. Each study unit is comprised of two or more lessons and lesson exercises.

Leafing Through the Text Leaf through the text and look at the course. Read a few lesson exercise questions to get an idea of the type of material in the course. If the course has additional study aids, such as a handbook or plotting board, familiarize yourself with them.

The First Study Unit Turn to the first page of study unit 1. On this page, you will find an introduction to the study unit and generally the first study unit lesson. Study unit lessons contain learning objectives, lesson text, and exercises.

Reading the Learning Objectives Learning objectives describe in concise terms what the successful learner, you, will be able to do as a result of mastering the content of the lesson text. Read the objectives for each lesson and then read the lesson text. As you read the lesson text, make notes on the points you feel are important.

Completing the Exercises To determine your mastery of the learning objectives and text, complete the exercises developed for you. Exercises are located at the end of each lesson, and at the end of each study unit. Without referring to the text, complete the exercise questions and then check your responses against those provided.

Continued on next page

Study Guide, Continued

Continuing to March

Continue on to the next lesson, repeating the above process until you have completed all lessons in the study unit. Follow the same procedures for each study unit in the course.

Preparing for the Final Exam

To prepare for your final exam, you must review what you learned in the course. The following suggestions will help make the review interesting and challenging.

- **CHALLENGE YOURSELF.** Try to recall the entire learning sequence without referring to the text. Can you do it? Now look back at the text to see if you have left anything out. This review should be interesting. Undoubtedly, you'll find you were not able to recall everything. But with a little effort, you'll be able to recall a great deal of the information.
- **USE UNUSED MINUTES.** Use your spare moments to review. Read your notes or a part of a study unit, rework exercise items, review again; you can do many of these things during the unused minutes of every day.
- **APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED.** It is always best to use the skill or knowledge you've learned as soon as possible. If it isn't possible to actually use the skill or knowledge, at least try to imagine a situation in which you would apply this learning. For example make up and solve your own problems. Or, better still, make up and solve problems that use most of the elements of a study unit.
- **USE THE "SHAKEDOWN CRUISE" TECHNIQUE.** Ask another Marine to lend a hand by asking you questions about the course. Choose a particular study unit and let your buddy "fire away." This technique can be interesting and challenging for both of you!
- **MAKE REVIEWS FUN AND BENEFICIAL.** Reviews are good habits that enhance learning. They don't have to be long and tedious. In fact, some learners find short reviews conducted more often prove more beneficial.

Continued on next page

Study Guide, Continued

Tackling the Final Exam

When you have completed your study of the course material and are confident with the results attained on your study unit exercises, take the sealed envelope marked “**FINAL EXAM**” to your unit training NCO or training officer. Your training NCO or officer will administer the final examination and return the examination and the answer sheet to MCI for grading. Before taking your final examination, read the directions on the DP-37 answer sheet carefully.

Completing Your Course

The sooner you complete your course, the sooner you can better yourself by applying what you’ve learned! **HOWEVER**--you do have 2 years from the date of enrollment to complete this course.

Graduating!

As a graduate of this distance education course and as a dedicated Marine, your job performance skills will improve, benefiting you, your unit, and the Marine Corps.

Semper Fidelis!

STUDY UNIT 1

INTRODUCTION TO THE M9 SERVICE PISTOL

Overview

Introduction The 9mm Pistol Program is a congressionally directed non-developmental initiative to standardize DOD with NATO and field one handgun for all United States Armed Services. Beretta of Italy was awarded the contract for delivery of over 500,000 pistols. The M9 service pistol replaced the M1911A1 .45 caliber pistol and .38 caliber revolvers.

Scope This study unit will focus on basic concepts that will familiarize you with the M9 service pistol. This study unit lays the foundation for other study units that will follow.

In This Study Unit This study unit contains the following lessons:

Topic	See Page
Characteristics and Capabilities	1-3
Cycle of Operation	1-15

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LESSON 1

CHARACTERISTICS AND CAPABILITIES

Introduction

Scope The M9 is the standard issued weapon for officers and staff noncommissioned officers and as a secondary weapon system to many MOSs. A Marine that is proficient with this weapon can engage numerous short-range targets effectively.

Content In this lesson, you will learn about the capabilities of the M9 service pistol and how to identify its main groups and components.

Learning Objectives Upon completion of this lesson, you should be able to

- Identify the characteristics and capabilities of the M9 service pistol.
- Identify the main groups and components by nomenclature.

In This Lesson This lesson contains the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Introduction	1-3
Characteristics of the M9 Service Pistol	1-4
Functional Capabilities	1-5
Nomenclature	1-7
Safety Features	1-12
Lesson 1 Exercise	1-13

Characteristics of the M9 Service Pistol

Introduction To successfully operate the M9 service pistol, it is important that you are aware of its features and specifications.

Features The M9 service pistol has unique features to prevent unintentional discharges. These features are listed below:

- Fires in double- or single-action mode and unloads without activating the trigger while the safety is in the “on” position.
 - Firing pin block and half cock notch make firing without actually pulling the trigger impossible.
 - Hammer can be lowered from the cocked “ready to fire” position to the uncocked position without activating the trigger by placing the thumb safety in the “on” position.
-

Specifications The table below lists the specifications of the M9 service pistol:

Specification	Description
Primary Function	Semi-automatic
Length	8.54 inches (21.69 cm)
Barrel Length	4.92 inches (12.5 cm)
Weight Fully Loaded	2.55 pounds (1.16 kg)
Maximum Effective Range	152.5 feet (50 m)
Magazine Capacity	15 rounds
Ammunition	9mm ball rounds (NATO M882)
Muzzle Velocity	1200 feet (9365 m) per second

Functional Capabilities

Introduction

When the M9 service pistol's safety lever is moved into the firing position (up position), it can be fired in a single-action or double-action mode. It is designed to fire one round each time the trigger is pulled. When the last round is fired, the slide automatically locks to the rear.

Single-Action Mode

Functions of the single-action mode are listed below:

- Allows the pistol to be fired when the hammer is cocked
- Hammer cocks manually or mechanically prior to the trigger pull
- Provides for a much shorter trigger pull

Note: The hammer is mechanically cocked after the first shot is fired.

Single-Action Mode Diagram

The diagram below shows the hammer to the rear in the single-action mode:



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Functional Capabilities, Continued

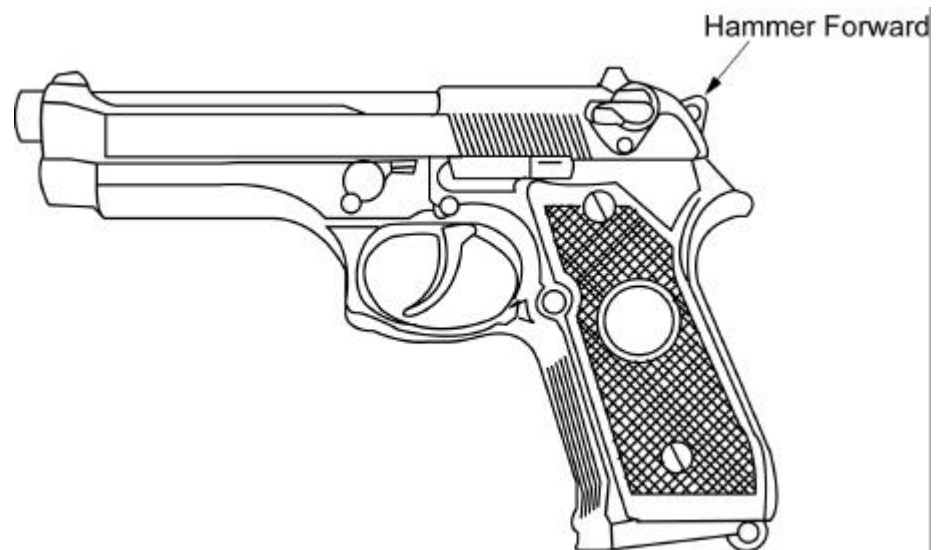
Double-Action Mode

Functions of the double-action mode are listed below:

- Causes the hammer to move to the rear as the trigger is pulled
 - Requires a much longer trigger pull
-

Double-Action Mode Diagram

The diagram below shows the hammer forward in the double-action mode:



Nomenclature

Introduction In order to operate and care for the M9 service pistol, it is important that you become familiar with its nomenclature. The following pages contain diagrams and descriptions of the major components.

Major Groups The three major groups of the M9 service pistol consist of the slide assembly, barrel assembly, and the receiver. The function of these components are listed in the table below:

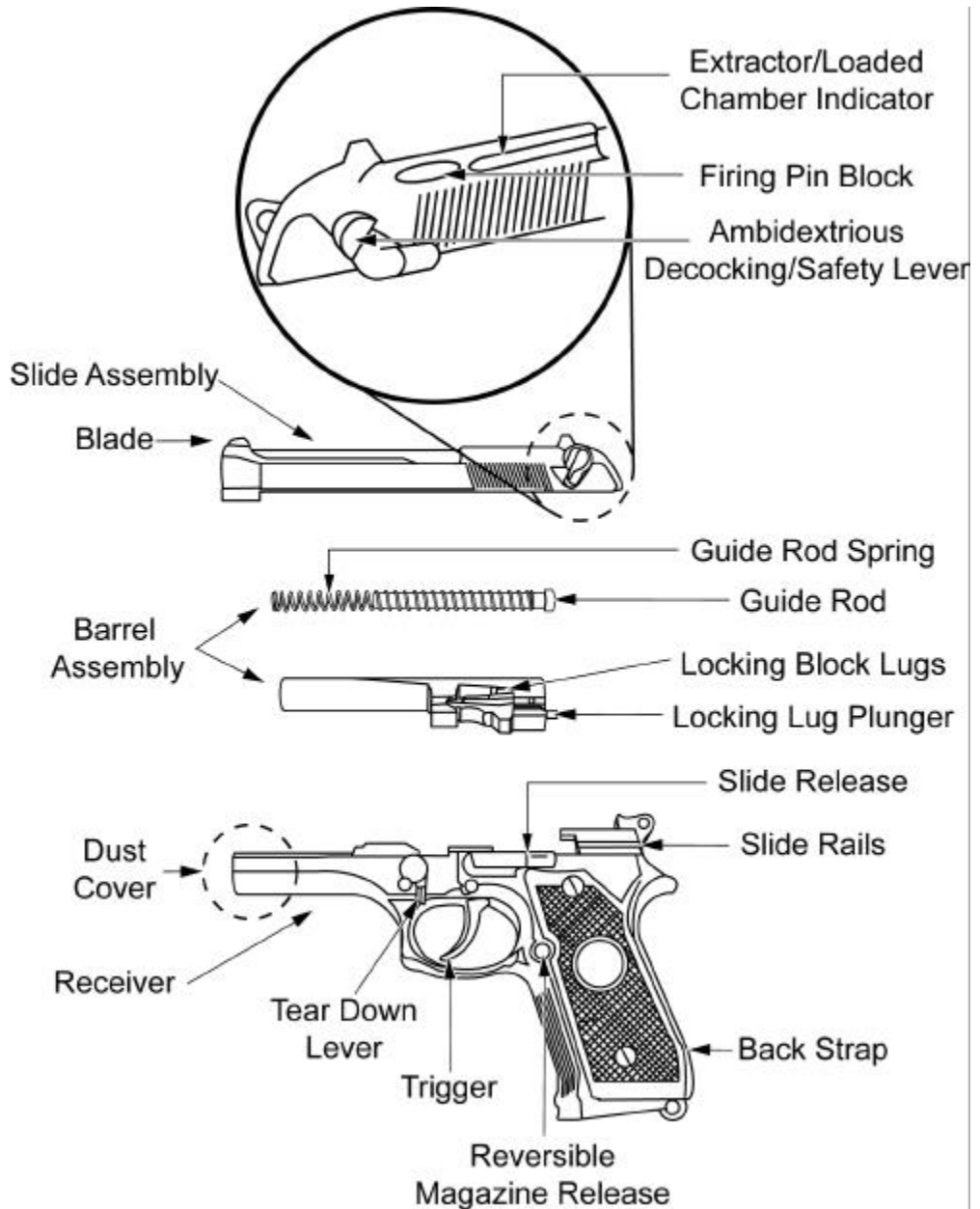
Component	Function
Slide Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Houses sight assembly, barrel, firing pin, safety mechanisms• Critical in the aiming process
Barrel Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Houses round• Directs the projectile• Locks the barrel in position
Receiver Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Houses the magazine• Supports major components

Continue on next page

Nomenclature, Continued

Major Groups Diagram

The diagram below shows the major groups of the M9 service pistol:



Continued on next page

Nomenclature, Continued

Right Side Description

The table below describes the right side view components:

Component	Description	Group
Decocking/Safety Lever	Permits safe operation of the pistol—referred to as the <i>safety</i> . As the safety is moved to the safe (down) position, the firing pin striker moves out of alignment with the firing pin. This movement prevents the pistol from firing as the hammer moves forward. <u>Note:</u> In the fire (up) position, a red dot is visible, indicating that the pistol is ready to fire.	S L I D E A S S E M B L Y
Firing Pin Block	Rests in the firing pin notch and prevents movement of the firing pin until the trigger is pulled. As the trigger is pulled, the firing pin block moves up and out of the firing pin notch. This movement allows a round to be fired when the hammer strikes the firing pin.	
Extractor	Pulls the brass from the chamber after the round is fired.	
Loaded Chamber Indicator	When a round is in the chamber, the upper surface of the extractor protrudes from the right side of the slide. This protrusion can be felt with the finger, verifying that there is a round in the chamber. A new M-9 will be marked with red paint, giving a visual clue that a round is in the chamber.	
Disassembly Button	Permits quick disassembly of the pistol.	Receiver

Continued on next page

Nomenclature, Continued

Left Side Description

The table below describes the left side view components:

Component	Description	Group
Front Sight	Used in aiming the weapon	Slide Assembly
Rear Sight	Used with the front sight in the aiming process	
Disassembly Lever	Separates the M9 into its three groups when used with the disassembly button	R e c e i v e r
Slide Stop	Holds the slide to the rear after the last round is fired—can be manually operated to lock the slide to the rear or release the slide	
Hammer	Strikes the firing pin sending the round down range	
Trigger	Controls the hammer and the firing pin block	
Magazine Catch Assembly	Secures the magazine in place when loading and releases the magazine for unloading <u>Note:</u> A qualified armorer can adjust the magazine catch assembly for both right- and left-handed shooters.	
Grip	Ensures a firm and accurate fit in a shooter's hand	
Lanyard Loop	Secures the weapon when the lanyard is attached through this loop	

Continued on next page

Nomenclature, Continued

Challenge True or False: The only way to determine if a round is in the chamber is to pull the slide back until you see brass.

Answer False. Although it is important and often times imperative to physically check the chamber, feeling for the loaded chamber indicator on the right side of the weapon will indicate whether there is a round in the chamber.

Safety Features

Introduction Whenever Marines are using a weapon, safety is paramount. The M9 includes several features that provide for its safe operation. The safety features of the M9 service pistol include the decocking/safety lever, firing pin block, and half-cock notch.

**Decocking/
Safety Lever** The safety lever is designed for both right-handed and left-handed shooters. When rotated to the “down” position, the weapon is on *safe*. In the “up” position, the weapon is on *fire*.

Note: In the fire (up) position, a red dot is visible, indicating the pistol is ready to fire.

**Firing Pin
Block** The firing pin block rests in the firing pin notch and prevents movement of the firing pin until the trigger is pulled. As the trigger is pulled, the firing pin block moves up and out of the firing pin notch. This movement allows a round to be fired when the hammer strikes the firing pin.

**Half-Cock
Notch** The half-cock notch stops the forward movement of the hammer during a mechanical failure.

Challenge True or False: The safety on the M9 is setup for a right-handed shooter.

Answer False. Both right-handed and left-handed shooters can use the pistol in the safety up position.

Lesson 1 Exercise

Directions Complete exercise items 1 through 6 by performing the action required. Check your answers against those listed at the end of this lesson.

Item 1 Through Item 5 For items 1 through 5, distinguish the difference between the single-action mode and double-action mode of firing by placing an “S” for single mode or “D” for double mode next to the appropriate characteristic.

- 1. Allows the pistol to fire when the hammer is cocked
 - 2. Causes the hammer to move to the rear as the trigger is pulled
 - 3. Hammer can be cocked manually or mechanically prior to the trigger pull
 - 4. Requires a longer trigger pull
 - 5. Provides for a much shorter trigger pull
-

Item 6 Place a check next to the components that are housed by the receiver.

- Front sight blade
 - Slide stop
 - Extractor
 - Grip
 - Hammer
-

Continued on next page

Lesson 1 Exercise, Continued

Solutions

The table below lists the answers to the exercise items. If you have questions about these items, refer to the reference page.

Item Number	Answer	Reference
1	s	1-5
2	d	1-6
3	s	1-5
4	d	1-6
5	s	1-5
6	Slide stop Grip Hammer	1-10

Lesson Summary

In this lesson, you learned about the capabilities of the M9 service pistol and how to identify its main groups and components. In the next lesson, you will learn how the pistol operates.

LESSON 2

CYCLE OF OPERATION

Introduction

Scope Have you ever wondered what happens inside your pistol when it is fired? From the time you cock your pistol until the time it is fired, there are eight operations the M9 service pistol performs during this process. It is important to learn these operations if and when you encounter problems during firing to identify what is wrong.

Content In this lesson, you will learn about the eight steps in the cycle of operation, the authorized ammunition, and safety and care of ammunition.

Learning Objectives Upon completion of this lesson, you should be able to

- Identify the steps in the cycle of operation.
- Identify the care requirements for 9mm ball ammunition.

In This Lesson This lesson contains the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Introduction	1-15
The Eight-Step Process	1-16
Ammunition	1-22
Lesson 2 Exercise	1-24

The Eight-Step Process

Introduction

The cycle of operation describes how the M9 service pistol operates once the trigger is fired. This is important for you to know for operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting the pistol.

The Cycle of Operation

The eight-step process in the cycle of operation is listed below:



- Firing
 - Unlocking
 - Extracting
 - Ejecting
 - Cocking
 - Feeding
 - Chambering
 - Locking
-

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The Eight-Step Process, Continued

Function

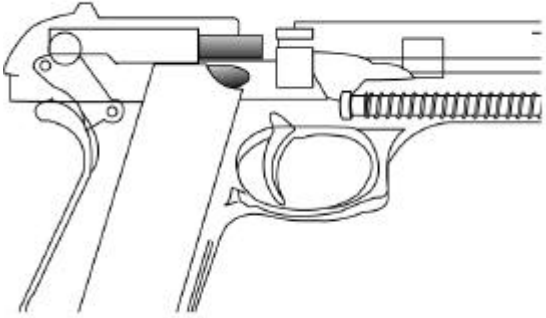
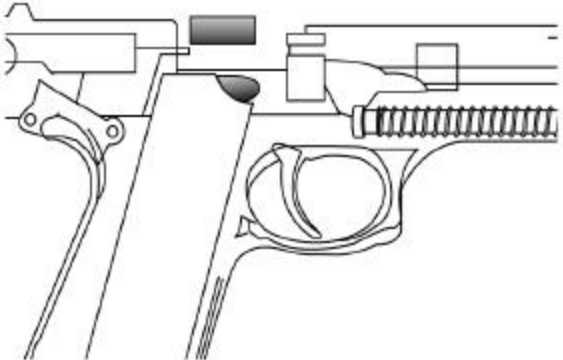
The step sequence and function of each operation is described in the table below:

Step	Operation	Function
1	Firing	<p>Once the safety is off and the trigger is pulled to the rear, the hammer falls on the firing pin, which strikes the primer and ignites the round as shown in the diagram below:</p> 
2	Unlocking	<p>As the slide assembly moves to the rear, the locking block rotates out of the notches in the slide as shown in the diagram below:</p> 

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The Eight-Step Process, Continued

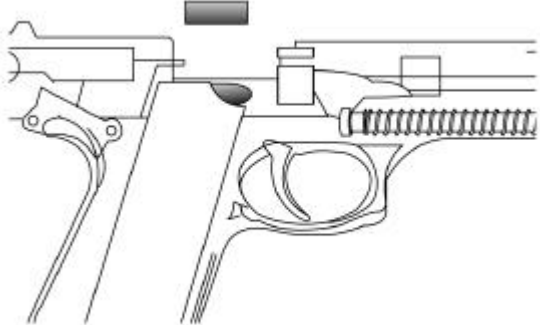
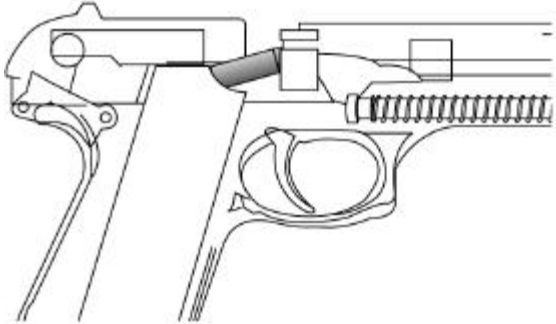
Function, continued

Step	Operation	Function
3	Extracting	<p>As the slide moves rearward, the extractor withdraws the cartridge case out of the chamber as shown in the diagram below:</p> 
4	Ejecting	<p>As the face of the slide passes over the ejector, the case strikes the ejector and it is knocked upward and outward through the ejection port as shown in the diagram below:</p>  <p><u>Note:</u> This open top slide design is unique to Baretts and makes it near impossible to get a round casing jammed.</p>

Continued on next page

The Eight-Step Process, Continued



Function,
continued

Step	Operation	Function
5	Cocking	<p>As the slide moves rearward, the hammer is pushed back. The sear engages the hammer and holds it in the locked position.</p> 
6	Feeding	<p>The slide starts forward, pushed by the recoil spring. The face of the slide makes contact with the cartridge at the top of the magazine, stripping it from the magazine and pushing it toward the chamber as shown in the diagram below:</p> 

Continued On Next Page

The Eight-Step Process, Continued

Function, continued

Step	Operation	Function
7	Chambering	<p>As the slide continues forward, it pushes the cartridge into the chamber as shown in the diagram below:</p>  <p>The diagram shows a side view of a handgun with the slide assembly moved forward. A cartridge is being pushed into the chamber by the slide's internal mechanism.</p>
8	Locking	<p>As the slide assembly continues to move forward, the locking block lugs move into the locking block recesses on the right and left sides of the slide as shown in the diagram below:</p>  <p>The diagram shows the handgun with the slide assembly fully locked. The locking block lugs on the slide are engaged with the recesses on the frame, locking the slide in place.</p>

Continued on next page

The Eight-Step Process, Continued

Challenge True or False: Understanding the cycle of operation is important because it will help you if you encounter problems with the pistol.

Answer True. Knowing how your weapon operates provide a foundation for understanding if you encounter problems with the operation of the weapon.

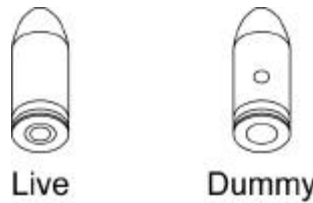
Ammunition

Authorized Ammunition

The only ammunition authorized for the M9 service pistol is the NATO 882 9mm ball. You can use dummy ammunition during training.

Dummy Rounds

For identification, a dummy round has a hole drilled in its side and contains no primer. The diagram below shows the live round and dummy round authorized for the pistol:



Rules

When handling any ammunition, always follow the rules listed in the table below:

Rule	Description
1	Do not open ammunition containers until the ammunition is ready for use.
2	Always maintain ammunition in a high state of readiness.

Continued on next page

Ammunition, Continued

Care Requirements

There are requirements in the special care of the ammunition used for the M9 service pistol. Follow the procedures listed in the table below when handling the NATO 882 9mm ball ammunition:

Procedure	Description
Keep ammunition dry and clean.	Wipe the ammunition off with a clean dry cloth if it gets wet or dirty.
Wipe off light corrosion as soon as it is discovered.	Never use ammunition that is heavily corroded, dented, or has the projectile pushed inward.
Do not expose ammunition to direct sunlight for long periods of time.	Exposure to sunlight can cause higher chamber pressures that may damage the gun.
Do not oil or grease ammunition.	Dust or other abrasives can collect on greasy ammunition and cause stoppages. Oiled cartridges also produce excessive chamber pressure.

Lesson 2 Exercise

Directions

Complete exercise items 1 through 9 by performing the actions required. Check your answers against those listed at the end of this lesson.

Item 1 Through Item 8

Matching: For items 1 through 8, match the step in column 1 with its operation in column 2. Place your answers in the spaces provided.

Column 1

Column 2

Step

Operation

- ___ 1. One
- ___ 2. Two
- ___ 3. Three
- ___ 4. Four
- ___ 5. Five
- ___ 6. Six
- ___ 7. Seven
- ___ 8. Eight

- a. Ejecting
 - b. Firing
 - c. Extracting
 - d. Unlocking
 - e. Cocking
 - f. Locking
 - g. Chambering
 - h. Feeding
-

Item 9

Why is it important *not* to oil or grease the ammunition?

- a. The ammunition will explode.
 - b. It may collect dirt and debris, which can cause stoppages.
 - c. The inner workings of the pistol will sweat.
 - d. The ammunition will be slippery.
-

Continued on next page

Lesson 2 Exercise, Continued

Solutions

The table below lists the answers to the lesson exercise. If you have questions about these items, refer to the reference page.

Item Number	Answer	Reference Page
1	b	1-17
2	d	1-17
3	c	1-18
4	a	1-18
5	e	1-19
6	h	1-19
7	g	1-20
8	f	1-20
9	b	1-23

Lesson Summary

In this lesson, you learned about the cycle of operation and why it can help you in maintaining your pistol. You also learned how to handle the 9mm ball ammunition.

You are now ready to move on to study unit 2 where you will learn about weapons handling procedures.

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STUDY UNIT 2

WEAPONS HANDLING

Overview

Scope Weapons handling is a method of responsibly, efficiently, and safely carrying and employing the M9 service pistol. The principles of weapons handling are critical to developing safe and consistent weapons skills.

In This Study Unit This study unit contains the following lessons:

Topic	See Page
Weapons Commands, Condition Codes, and Remedial Action	2-3
Weapons Carries, Transports, and Transfers	2-27
Disassembly, Assembly, and Preventive Maintenance	2-43

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LESSON 1

WEAPONS COMMANDS, CONDITION CODES, AND REMEDIAL ACTION

Introduction

Scope To safely employ the M9, it is essential that the shooter understand all directions given whether in a combat situation or on the rifle range. When a command is given, a Marine must be able to perform the appropriate action. The Marine must also know the correct action to take in response to a stoppage or malfunction. Each command, condition, and remedial action is vital in making a Marine combat effective.

Content In this lesson, you will learn about weapons safety, condition codes, and other weapons handling procedures to safely use the M9 pistol.

Learning Objectives Upon completion of this lesson, you should be able to

- Identify the safety rules.
 - Identify the weapons condition codes.
 - Determine a weapon's condition.
 - Identify the commands used in weapons handling.
 - Identify the remedial action procedures.
-

Continued on next page

Introduction, Continued

In This Lesson This lesson contains the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Introduction	2-3
Safety Rules	2-5
Weapons Conditions	2-6
Weapons Commands	2-11
Loading the Pistol	2-12
Making the Pistol Ready	2-15
Fire and Cease Fire	2-16
Unloading the Pistol	2-17
Showing the Pistol Clear	2-19
Remedial Action	2-21
Lesson 1 Exercise	2-24

Safety Rules

Introduction

The safety rules are the foundation for responsible weapons handling. Mastering the fundamentals of safely employing the weapon is a key concept in both training and combat. Observe safety at all times to ensure that mission accomplishment and survivability will not be adversely affected.

Four Rules

Listed in the table below are the four safety rules:

Rule	Description
1. Treat every weapon as if it were loaded.	Prevents unintentional injury to personnel or damage to property
2. Never point your weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.	Enforces the importance of muzzle awareness and reinforces positive identification of the target
3. Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire.	Minimizes the risk of firing negligently and reinforces positive identification of the target <u>Note:</u> When not firing, place the trigger finger straight along the receiver—outside on the trigger guard. Barring a catastrophic malfunction, this weapon will not fire unless the trigger is pulled.
4. Keep the weapon on <i>safe</i> until you intend to fire.	Enforces the use of the weapon's own safety feature and reinforces positive identification of the target

Weapons Conditions

Introduction The Marine Corps has established a system that describes the readiness level of each weapon system. This topic describes weapons conditions as well as provides step-by-step instructions for elevating a pistol's level of readiness.

Four Condition Codes The four codes for weapons conditions are listed in the table below:

Code	Action
Condition 1	Magazine inserted, round in chamber , slide forward, and safety on
Condition 2	Not applicable to the M9 service pistol
Condition 3	Magazine inserted, chamber empty , slide forward, and safety on
Condition 4	Magazine removed , chamber empty, slide forward, and safety on

Determining a Weapon's Condition There are two methods to determine a weapon's condition:


- Check the round indicator on the right side of the pistol.
- Conduct a chamber check.

Continued on next page

Weapons Conditions, Continued

Check the Round Indicator

Follow the steps listed in the table below to check the round indicator:


Step	Action
1	Make sure the weapon is on <i>safe</i> .
2	Slide either the thumb or the index finger of the left hand over top of the slide and across the extractor as shown below:  <u>Note:</u> If there is a round in the chamber, the upper surface of the extractor protrudes from the right side of the slide.

Continued On Next Page

Weapons Conditions, Continued

Conduct a Chamber Check


Follow the steps listed in the table below to conduct a chamber check:

Step	Action
1	Point the pistol in a safe direction and grasp the pistol grip with the right hand.
2	<p>Place the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand. Use the thumb and index finger to grasp the forward end of the slide at the indentations under the front sight behind the muzzle as shown below:</p>  <p>CAUTION: Make sure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.</p>

Continued on next page

Weapons Conditions, Continued

Conduct a Chamber Check, continued

Step	Action
3	<p data-bbox="548 562 1393 636">Keep the thumb in place and rotate the right hand fingers over the top of the slide in front of the rear sight as shown below:</p>  <p data-bbox="548 1251 1352 1318"><u>Note:</u> Pressure comes from the rear hand. The front hand just cradles the weapons.</p>
4	<p data-bbox="548 1329 1385 1396">Pull the slide to the rear by pushing forward with the right thumb and pulling back on the rear sight with the fingers.</p> <p data-bbox="548 1434 1398 1539"><u>CAUTION:</u> Pulling the slide too far to the rear while inspecting the chamber may cause a double feed or the ejection of a round.</p>
5	<p data-bbox="548 1549 1117 1577">Inspect the chamber visually and physically.</p>

Continued on next page

Weapons Conditions, Continued

Challenge

Which of the following is a description of condition 1?

- a. **Magazine removed**, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety on
 - b. Magazine inserted, **round in chamber**, slide forward, and safety on
 - c. **Magazine removed**, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety off
 - d. Magazine inserted, **round in chamber**, slide forward, and safety off
-

Answer

B is the correct answer.

Weapons Commands

Introduction

There are six weapons commands to safely load, unload, and employ the M9 service pistol. The six commands are listed below:

- Load
- Make ready
- Fire
- Cease fire
- Unload
- Unload, show clear


A description of each command is described on the following pages.

Continued on next page

Loading the Pistol

Load


The command, "Load" takes a weapon from condition 4 to condition 3. Perform the following steps to load the pistol:

Step	Action
1	Make sure the pistol is on <i>safe</i> .
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the right hand to grip the pistol grip firmly.• Point the pistol in a safe direction.• Bring the trigger guard to the right of eye level and cant the pistol so that the magazine well faces inboard at approximately 45 degrees as shown below:  A black and white photograph of a soldier in a camouflage uniform and cap. The soldier is holding a handgun with both hands, demonstrating the 'cant' position. The handgun is held vertically, with the magazine well facing towards the soldier's body. The soldier's right hand is on the grip, and his left hand is on the trigger guard. The handgun is tilted at an angle, consistent with the 45-degree cant mentioned in the text.

Continued on next page

Loading the Pistol, Continued


Load,
continued

Step	Action
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use the left hand to remove a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket.• Index the magazine by sliding the index finger along the forward edge of the magazine.
4	<p>Insert the filled magazine into the magazine well by guiding it with the index finger as shown below:</p> 

Continued on next page

Loading the Pistol, Continued


Load,
continued

Step	Action
5	<p data-bbox="548 495 1372 562">Push the filled magazine into the magazine well with the heel of the hand until it is fully seated as shown below:</p>  <p data-bbox="548 1402 1396 1470"><u>Note:</u> Do not relinquish contact with the magazine until it is fully seated.</p>

Making the Pistol Ready

Make Ready

The command, "Make ready" takes a weapon from condition 3 to condition 1. Perform the following steps to make the pistol ready:

Step	Action
1	Point the pistol in a safe direction and firmly grip the pistol grip with the right hand.
2	Rotate the magazine well outboard.
3	<p>With the fingers and thumb of the left hand, grasp the serrated sides of the slide just forward of the safety as shown below:</p>  <p><u>CAUTION:</u> Make sure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.</p>
4	<p>Pull the slide all the way to the rear and release.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> This strips a round from the magazine and then chambers the round as the slide moves forward.</p>
5	Make sure the pistol is still on <i>safe</i> .
6	Perform a chamber check to ensure that a round is in the chamber.

Continued on next page

Fire and Cease Fire

Firing the Pistol

The command, "Fire" engages the target. Perform the steps listed in the table below to fire the pistol:

Step	Action
1	Keep the trigger finger straight and use the right thumb to take the pistol off safe.
2	Place the trigger finger on the trigger and apply pressure to the trigger until the shot is fired.

Cease Fire

The command, "Cease Fire" ceases the target engagement. Perform the steps listed in the table below to cease fire:

Step	Action
1	Place the weapon on <i>safe</i> .
2	Assume a carry or transport position.

Unloading the Pistol

Unload


The command, “Unload” takes a weapon from any condition to condition 4. Remember that during each step, the pistol should be pointed in a safe direction. Perform the steps listed in the table below to unload the pistol:

Step	Action
1	Gripping the pistol in your right hand, rotate the pistol so the magazine well is pointed inward and down. <u>Note:</u> The angle of the magazine well must allow the magazine to fall freely from the well.
2	Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine from the pistol. Catch the magazine with the left hand.
3	Push upward on the slide stop with the right thumb and maintain pressure. Rotate the weapon so the chamber is outboard.
4	Reach over the top of the pistol with the left hand and grasp the slide serrations with the thumb and index finger. <u>Note:</u> The left hand should partially cover the ejection port so it is positioned to catch an ejected round.

Continued on next page

Unloading the Pistol, Continued


Unload,
continued

Step	Action
5	<p>Fully retract the slide and lock it to the rear. At the same time, catch the ejected round with the left hand as shown below:</p> 
6	<p>Rotate the pistol so the inside of the chamber can be seen. Inspect the chamber and magazine well to ensure they are empty.</p>
7	<p>Press the slide stop to release the slide and observe it going forward on an empty chamber.</p>

Showing the Pistol Clear

Show Clear

The command, “Show clear” is used with “Unload” when a second Marine must verify a condition 4 weapon. After completing the procedure for unload, perform the steps listed in the table below to show clear:

Step	Action
1	<p>Bring the pistol to the administrative transport and have another Marine inspect the chamber to ensure the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chamber is empty, no ammunition is present, and the magazine is removed.• Pistol is on <i>safe</i>.
2	<p>The second Marine acknowledges the pistol is clear as shown below:</p>  A black and white photograph showing two Marines in profile from the chest up. They are wearing camouflage uniforms and garrison caps. The Marine on the right is holding a handgun with both hands, pointing it towards the right. The Marine on the left is looking towards the right, presumably at the handgun being held by the second Marine. <p></p>
3	<p>Press the slide stop and observe the slide going forward on an empty chamber.</p>

Continued on next page

Showing the Pistol Clear, Continued

Challenge True/False: The command, “Make ready,” takes the pistol from condition 3 to condition 2.

Answer False: Condition 2 is not applicable to the M9. “Make ready” takes the weapon from condition 3 to condition 1.

Remedial Action

Introduction

The M9 service pistol is an effective and extremely reliable weapon. However, stoppages do occur. To keep the pistol in action, stoppages must be cleared as quickly as possible through remedial action.

Stoppage Definition

A *stoppage* is an unintentional interruption in the cycle of operation.

Example: The slide not moving forward completely.

Proper care, cleaning, and lubrication of the pistol will prevent most stoppages.

Stoppage Causes

Common causes of a stoppage are listed below:

- Shooter
 - Malfunctioning magazine
 - Ammunition in poor condition
 - Dirty weapon
-

Shooter Error Stoppages

The following are common stoppages caused by the shooter:

- Fails to “make ready”
 - Fails to take the pistol off *safe* prior to firing
 - Engages the safety while firing
 - Engages the magazine release button while firing
 - Engages the slide stop while firing
 - Fails to reset the trigger
 - Fails to recognize the pistol has run dry of ammunition and the slide has locked to the rear
-

Malfunction Definition

A *malfunction* is a failure of the pistol to fire satisfactorily or to perform as designed.

Note: A malfunction may or may not cause a stoppage.

Example: A broken front sight that does not affect the functioning of the pistol.

Malfunctions require an armorer to correct.

Continued on next page

Remedial Action, Continued

Clearing a Stoppage

This generic procedure for clearing a stoppage will not be effective in *all* cases, but will enable the shooter to clear the most common types of stoppages. Investigation is the most important part of clearing a stoppage and should be practiced in every step. The table below lists a generic procedure for clearing a stoppage:

Step	Action						
1	Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.						
2	Bring the pistol in close to the body and in a position to observe the chamber.						
3	Pull the slide to the rear while observing the chamber area to identify the stoppage. <u>Note:</u> Make sure the pistol does not move to safe when pulling the slide to the rear.						
4	Correct the stoppage: <table border="1" data-bbox="565 1012 1386 1276"> <thead> <tr> <th>If...</th> <th>Then...</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>There is a round in the magazine, but not in the chamber</td> <td>Slide the release to see if a round is being chambered.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A round is still not chambered</td> <td>Tap the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is fully seated and attempt to chamber a round again.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If...	Then...	There is a round in the magazine, but not in the chamber	Slide the release to see if a round is being chambered.	A round is still not chambered	Tap the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is fully seated and attempt to chamber a round again.
If...	Then...						
There is a round in the magazine, but not in the chamber	Slide the release to see if a round is being chambered.						
A round is still not chambered	Tap the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is fully seated and attempt to chamber a round again.						
5	Fire the pistol.						

Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil

An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited.

WARNING: Do not perform remedial action if an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced, unless you are in a combat environment.

Continued on next page

Remedial Action, Continued

Training Environment

If an audible pop or reduced recoil happens in a training environment, follow the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
2	Point the pistol down range.
3	Place the pistol on <i>safe</i> .
4	Raise a hand to receive assistance from available range personnel.

Combat Environment

If an audible pop or reduced recoil happens in a tactical environment, follow the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Find another weapon, if possible.
2	Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
3	Seek cover if the tactical situation permits.
4	Unload the pistol, but leave the slide locked to the rear.
5	Insert something into the bore and clear the obstruction.
6	Observe the barrel for cracks or bulges.
7	Reload the pistol.

Lesson 1 Exercise

Directions Complete exercise items 1 through 11 by performing the action required. Check your answers against those listed at the end of this lesson.

Item 1 Which safety rule is intended to minimize the risk of firing the weapon negligently and reinforces positive identification of the target?

- a. Treat every weapon as if it were loaded.
- b. Never point your weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.
- c. Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire.
- d. Keep the weapon on safe until you intend to fire.

Item 2 Through Item 5 Matching: For items 2 through 5, match the weapons condition code in column 1 with its action in column 2. Place your answers in the spaces provided.

Column 1

Column 2

Code

Action

- ___ 2. Condition 1
- ___ 3. Condition 2
- ___ 4. Condition 3
- ___ 5. Condition 4

- a. Magazine removed, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety on
 - b. Not applicable to the M9 service pistol
 - c. Magazine inserted, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety on
 - d. Magazine inserted, round in chamber, slide forward, and safety on
-

Continued on next page

Lesson 1 Exercise, Continued

**Item 6
Through
Item 11**

Matching: For items 6 through 11, match the weapons command in column 1 with its description in column 2. Place your answers in the spaces provided.

Column 1

Command

- ___ 6. Load
- ___ 7. Make ready
- ___ 8. Fire
- ___ 9. Cease fire
- ___ 10. Unload
- ___ 11. Unload, show clear

Column 2

Description

- a. Takes the weapon from condition 3 to condition 1
- b. Engages the target
- c. Takes a weapon from condition 4 to condition 3
- d. Used with “unload” when a second Marine must verify a condition 4 weapon
- e. Takes a weapon from any condition to condition 4
- f. Stops target engagement

Continued on next page

Lesson 1 Exercise, Continued

Solutions

The table below lists the answers to the exercise items. If you have questions about these items, refer to the reference page.

Item Number	Answer	Reference Page
1	c	2-5
2	d	2-6
3	b	2-6
4	c	2-6
5	a	2-6
6	c	2-12
7	a	2-15
8	b	2-16
9	f	2-16
10	e	2-17
11	d	2-19

Summary

In this lesson, you learned about weapon safety, condition codes, and other weapons handling procedures to safely use the M9 pistol.

In the next lesson, you will learn more weapons handling procedures.

LESSON 2

WEAPONS CARRIES, TRANSPORTS, AND TRANSFERS

Introduction

Scope In combat, how a Marine carries or transports a weapon can determine whether or not a Marine will be successful. Learning the correct way to move about the battlefield with a weapon increases safety and decreases reaction time.

Content In this lesson, you will learn about proper procedures to carry, transport, and transfer the pistol. You will also learn how combat mindset and threat levels are related to these procedures.

Learning Objectives Upon completion of this lesson, you should be able to

- Identify the procedure to carry the M9 pistol.
- Identify the procedure to transport the M9 pistol.
- Identify the procedure to transfer the weapon to another Marine.
- Identify the methods to combat stress in the battlefield.
- Determine the proper weapons carry in response to a threat level.
- Determine the proper weapons transport in response to a threat level.

Continued on next page

Introduction, Continued

In This Lesson This lesson contains the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Introduction	2-27
Weapons Carries	2-29
Weapons Transports	2-32
Weapons Transfers	2-34
The Combat Mindset	2-37
Threat Levels	2-39
Lesson 2 Exercise	2-40

Weapons Carries

Introduction

As the threat level increases, so should the Marine's readiness for engagement. Weapons carries are designed to place the Marine in a state of increased readiness as the threat level increases.

Two Carries

The two carries for the M9 are listed below:

- Alert
 - Ready
-

Continued on next page

Weapons Carries, Continued

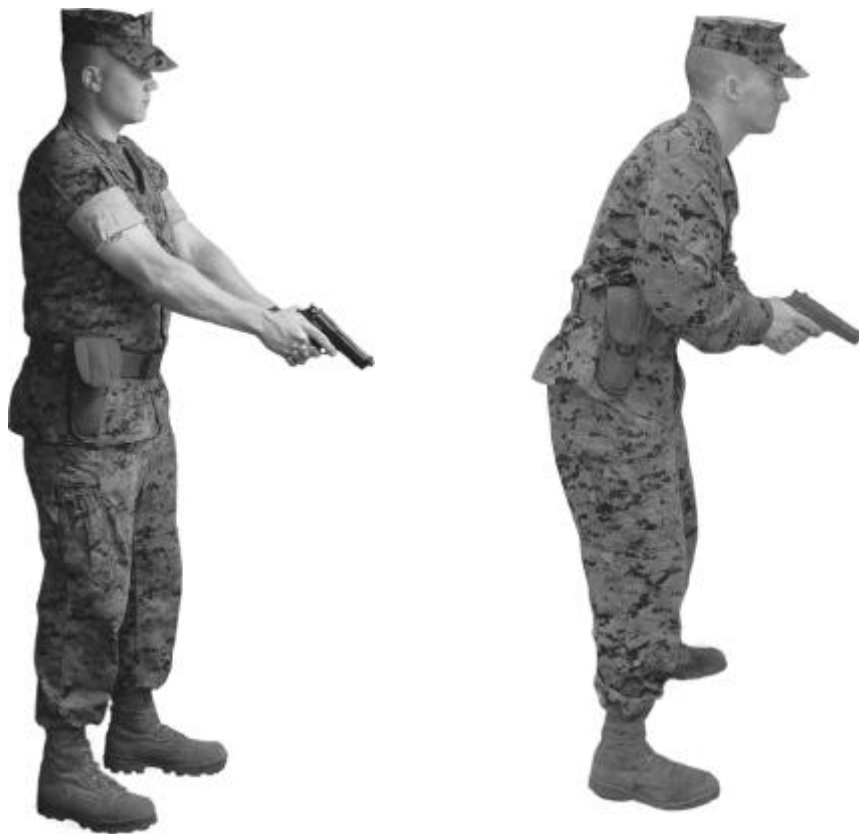
Alert

The alert carry is used when enemy contact is likely. The procedure for assuming the weapons alert carry is listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Make sure the pistol is on <i>safe</i> .
2	Grasp the pistol grip firmly with two hands. <u>Note:</u> The trigger finger is straight and the right thumb is on the safety.
3	Extend the arms down at approximately a 45-degree angle to the body or bend the elbows in close quarters.
4	Point the muzzle in the likely direction of the threat.

Alert Diagram

The diagrams below show the weapons alert carry:



Continued on next page

Weapons Carries, Continued

Ready

The ready carry is used when there is no target, but contact with the enemy is imminent. To assume the ready, follow the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Make sure the pistol is on <i>safe</i> .
2	Grasp the pistol firmly with two hands. <u>Note:</u> The trigger finger is straight and the right thumb is on the safety and in a position to operate it.
3	Extend arms and raise the pistol to just below eye level so a clear field of view is maintained.
4	Point the muzzle of the pistol in the direction of enemy contact.

Ready Diagram The diagram below shows the ready carry:



Weapons Transports

Introduction

The M9 service pistol is transported in either the holster transport or the administrative transport.

Holster Transport

Holster transport is used when there is no immediate threat. Follow the procedure listed in the table below to assume the holster transport:

Step	Action
1	Check to ensure the safety is on, the slide is forward, and the trigger finger is straight and off of the trigger.
2	Use the right hand to firmly grip the pistol grip and place the pistol in the holster: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lift the flap of the holster with the left hand.• Look down at the holster.• Bring the pistol back to a position above the holster.• Rotate the muzzle down into the holster.
3	Push the pistol snugly into the holster and fasten the flap with the right hand.

Holster Transport Diagram

The diagram below shows the holster transport:



Continued on next page

Weapons Transports, Continued

Administrative Transport

The administrative transport is used when a Marine does not have a holster. Follow the procedure listed in the table below to assume the administrative transport:

Step	Action
1	Establish a firm grip around the pistol.
2	Check to ensure the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pistol is on safe.• Magazine is removed.• Side is locked to the rear.• Trigger finger is straight along the receiver.
3	Bend the elbow to approximately 45degrees so that the pistol is positioned near shoulder level. <u>Note:</u> The wrist should be straight so the pistol's muzzle points up.

Weapons Transfers

Introduction

The Marine's ability to transfer a pistol to another Marine is critical to safe weapons handling. Listed below are two methods for transferring the pistol:

- Show clear
- Condition unknown

Show Clear

Follow the procedure listed in the table below to perform the show clear transfer:

Step	Action						
1	Unload and show clear as described in Study Unit 2, lesson 1.						
2	Leave the slide locked to the rear prior to transferring the weapon to the receiving Marine.						
3	Transfer the weapon to the receiving Marine. <table border="1" data-bbox="548 934 1414 1270"> <thead> <tr> <th>If the receiving Marine is ...</th> <th>Then...</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>To the right</td> <td>Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To the left</td> <td>With the left hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the thumb over the slide and the fingers underneath.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	If the receiving Marine is ...	Then...	To the right	Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol.	To the left	With the left hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the thumb over the slide and the fingers underneath.
If the receiving Marine is ...	Then...						
To the right	Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol.						
To the left	With the left hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the thumb over the slide and the fingers underneath.						
4	Release the firing grip.						
5	Hand the pistol to the other Marine grip first. Make sure the muzzle points up at a 45-degree angle in a safe direction and the chamber is exposed.						

Receiving Marine

To complete a safe transfer, the receiving Marine will follow the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Grasp the pistol grip with the trigger finger straight along the receiver.
2	Inspect the chamber visually to ensure it is empty.
3	Check to ensure the pistol is on <i>safe</i> .

Continued on next page

Weapons Transfers, Continued

Condition Unknown Transfer

Follow the procedure listed in the table below to perform the condition unknown transfer:

Step	Action
1	Grasp the pistol firmly in the right hand while ensuring that the pistol is on <i>safe</i> .
2	<p>Transfer the weapon to the receiving Marine. When the receiving Marine is to the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="548 659 1360 764">• Right: Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol as shown below: <div data-bbox="756 789 1195 1167" data-label="Image"> </div> <li data-bbox="548 1192 1386 1297">• Left: With the left hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the thumb over the slide and the fingers underneath as shown below: <div data-bbox="695 1323 1256 1696" data-label="Image"> </div>
3	Release the firing grip.
4	Hand the pistol to the receiving Marine grip first. Make sure the muzzle points up at a 45-degree angle in a safe direction.

Continued on next page

Weapons Transfers, Continued

Receiving Marine

To complete a safe transfer, the receiving Marine will follow the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Grasp the pistol grip with the trigger finger straight along the receiver.
2	Check to ensure the pistol is on <i>safe</i> .
3	Conduct a chamber check to determine the condition of the pistol.
4	Remove the magazine and count the number of rounds using the holes in the side as a guide.
5	Insert the magazine into the magazine well.

The Combat Mindset

Introduction

All of the transports, carries, and transfers were designed with one purpose in mind—provide the Marine with a safe and effective way to successfully respond to a threat. A combat mindset results when a Marine is physically and mentally prepared while correctly responding to each perceived level of threat.

Physical Preparation

In combat, targets can present themselves without warning. It is essential for the Marine to maintain the proper balance and control of the pistol at all times so the pistol can be presented quickly and accurately.

Speed Verses Accuracy

It is extremely important to be able to quickly identify and engage targets in combat, but speed alone does not equate to effective target engagement. A Marine should fire only as fast as he or she can fire accurately, never exceeding their physical ability to apply the fundamentals. Adequate training will make the fundamentals automatic, allowing the Marine to engage more targets at a rapid rate.

Mental Preparation

Mental preparation is a Marine's tool in combating the unpredictable and constantly changing nature of combat.

Stress

Stress is the most destructive mental force on the modern battlefield. It can completely erode a Marine's ability to make crucial decisions in a timely manner. In acquiring targets, the ability to make the correct decision in the least amount of time is often the determining factor.

Continued on next page

The Combat Mindset, Continued

Combating Stress

Minimize stress and maximize the limited time available to engage targets by

- Knowing the combat environment and being constantly aware of the surroundings
 - Identifying and evaluating possible courses of action and developing potential plans for target engagement
 - Instilling confidence in a Marine's ability to fire well-aimed shots in the stress of a combat situation
-

Threat Levels

Introduction

There are three basic threat levels. Each of these levels corresponds to a particular carry or transport. The three basic threat levels are listed below:

- No immediate threat
 - Contact likely
 - Contact imminent
-

No Immediate Threat

When there is no immediate threat, the Marine assumes the holster transport. Place the pistol in condition 1. This is the lowest level of awareness for a Marine in a combat environment, but the Marine should

- Maintain awareness of likely areas of enemy contact.
 - Maintain awareness of the condition of his or her pistol.
 - Mentally review appropriate actions such as reloading and remedial action.
 - Establish a plan or course of action to present the pistol to a target should a target appear.
-

Contact Likely

When contact is likely, the Marine assumes the “Alert” weapons carry. The Marine should also

- Expect enemy contact and constantly be prepared.
 - Maintain mental preparedness for contact.
 - Search the entire area for indications of the enemy and suitable terrain features to offer cover and concealment.
-

Contact Imminent

When contact is imminent, assume the “Ready” weapons carry. The Marine should also

- Keep the pistol oriented in the general direction of observation.
 - Be ready to engage.
 - Maintain a clear field of view above the pistol sights until the target is detected.
-

Lesson 2 Exercise

Directions Complete exercise items 1 through 6 by performing the action required. Check your answers against those listed at the end of this lesson.

Item 1 The name of the weapons carry whereas the arms are extended down at approximately a 45-degree angle to the body is the _____.

Item 2 The name of the weapons transport whereas the elbow is bent to approximately 45degrees so that the pistol is positioned near shoulder level is the _____.

Item 3 The weapons transfer whereas you leave the slide locked to the rear prior to transferring the weapon to the receiving Marine is _____.

Item 4 One method of combating stress in the battlefield is knowing the _____ and being _____ of the surroundings.

Item 5 Scenario: You are in Iraq. Your fire team is conducting a search in a building where intelligence reports state hostages are being held. The weapons carry that your team members should assume is the _____.

Item 6 Scenario: You are standing guard duty at your post in the United States. The weapons transport that you are most likely using is the _____.

Continued on next page

Lesson 2 Exercise, Continued

Solutions

The table below lists the answers to the exercise items. If you have questions about these items, refer to the reference page.

Item Number	Answer	Reference Page
1	alert	2-30
2	administrative	2-33
3	show clear	2-34
4	combat environment constantly aware	2-38
5	ready	2-39
6	holster	2-39

Summary

In this lesson, you learned the proper procedures to carry transport and transfer the pistol and how combat mindset and threat levels are related to these procedures.

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LESSON 3

DISASSEMBLY, ASSEMBLY, AND PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

Introduction

Scope In order to be truly proficient with this weapon, a Marine must be able to care for it properly. The M9 service pistol is an extremely reliable and effective weapon when properly maintained.

Content This lesson will focus on teaching the Marine to disassemble, clean, and reassemble their weapon.

Learning Objectives Upon completion of this lesson, you should be able to

- Identify the procedure to disassemble the M9 service pistol.
- Identify the procedure to inspect the M9 service pistol.
- Identify the procedure to clean the M9 service pistol.
- Identify the procedure to reassemble the M9 service pistol.
- Identify maintenance procedures in adverse conditions.

In This Lesson This lesson contains the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Introduction	2-43
Disassemble the Pistol	2-44
Inspect the Pistol	2-48
Clean the Pistol	2-49
Assemble the Pistol	2-50
Maintenance in Adverse Conditions	2-55
Lesson 3 Exercise	2-57


Disassemble the Pistol

Introduction

Disassembling the M9 is the first step to ensure your weapon is always kept in a combat ready status. This procedure is relatively simple due to the small number of moving parts inside of the M9.

Taking the M9 Apart



This procedure is for *non-armory* personnel; the armorer must perform further disassembly beyond the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Make sure the weapon is clear, in condition 4, and on <i>safe</i> .
2	<p>Hold the pistol in the right hand with the muzzle slightly elevated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach over or under the slide with the left hand and place the left index finger on the disassembly button and the left thumb on the disassembly lever.• Press the disassembly button and hold it in place while rotating the disassembly lever downward until it stops as shown below: 

Continued on next page

Disassemble the Pistol, Continued



Taking the M9 Apart, continued

Step	Action
3	<p>Pull the slide and barrel assembly forward and remove it while wrapping the fingers around the slide to hold the recoil spring and recoil spring guide in place as shown below:</p> 
4	<p>Turn the slide assembly over in the left hand until the recoil spring and recoil spring guide face up as shown below:</p> 

Continued on next page

Disassemble the Pistol, Continued

Taking the M9 Apart, continued

Step	Action
5	<p>Place the right thumb on the end of the recoil spring guide next to the locking block as shown below and compress the recoil spring and spring guide while lifting and removing them from the slide and barrel assembly. Allow the recoil spring to decompress slowly.</p> 
6	<p>Separate the recoil spring from the recoil spring guide.</p>
7	<p>Push in on the locking block plunger with the right index finger while pushing the barrel forward slightly. Then lift and remove the locking block and barrel assembly from the slide as shown below:</p> 

Continued on next page

Disassemble the Pistol, Continued

Disassembly Diagram

Once disassembly is complete, the disassembled weapon should consist of the parts shown below:



Inspect the Pistol

Introduction Constant inspection and cleaning will ensure the M9 performs as it was intended. When cleaning, use only the authorized cleaning materials issued with the weapon to prevent damage in the cleaning process.

Inspection Each time the pistol is disassembled, it should be thoroughly inspected to ensure it is in serviceable condition. The table below is a guideline for inspecting the pistol:

Part	Action
Slide Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check for free movement of the safety.• Make sure the rear sight is secure.• Check for excessive wear, barrs, cracks, or chips.
Barrel Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inspect the bore and chamber for pitting or obstructions.• Check the locking block plunger for free movement of the locking block.• Inspect the locking lugs for cracks and burrs.
Recoil Spring and Recoil Spring Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check the recoil spring for damage.• Check that it is not bent.• Check the recoil spring guide for straightness and smoothness.• Check to be sure it is free of cracks and burrs.
Receiver Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check for bends, chips, and cracks.• Check for free movement of the slide stop and magazine catch assembly.• Check the guide rails for excessive wear, burrs, cracks, or chips.
Magazine Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check spring and follower for damage.• Make sure the lips of the magazine are not excessively bent and free of cracks and burrs. The magazine tube should not be bent or dirty.• Check for excessive wear, barrs, cracks, or chips.

Clean the Pistol

Cleaning and Lubricating

The procedure listed in the table below is used to clean and lubricate the pistol:

Part	Action
Slide Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean the slide assembly with a cloth. A general-purpose brush and cleaning lubricant protectant (CLP) can also assist in the removal of excess dirt and carbon buildup. • Make sure the safety, bolt face, slide guides, and extractor are free of dirt and residue. • Wipe dry with a cloth and apply a light coat of CLP.
Barrel Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insert a bore brush with CLP into the chamber end of the barrel, ensuring that it completely clears the muzzle before it is pulled back through the bore. <p>CAUTION: Insert the bore brush through the chamber to prevent damage to the crown of the barrel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat several times to loosen carbon deposits. • Dry the barrel by pushing a swab through the bore. • Repeat until a clean swab can be observed. • Clean the locking block with a general-purpose brush. • Use the barrel brush to apply a light coat of CLP to the bore and chamber area; lubricate the exterior surfaces of the barrel and locking block.
Recoil Spring and Recoil Spring Guide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean the recoil spring and recoil spring guide using CLP and a general-purpose brush or cloth. • Apply a light coat of CLP after wiping the recoil spring and recoil spring guide clean.
Receiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wipe the receiver assembly clean with a cloth. • Use a general-purpose brush for areas hard to reach, paying special attention to the disassembly lever, trigger, slide stop, hammer, and magazine release button. • Apply a light coat of CLP. <p>CAUTION: Do not allow the hammer to fall with full force by pulling the trigger when the slide is removed to prevent damage to the receiver and hammer.</p>


Assemble the Pistol

Introduction

Assembly is a relatively simple process, but if done incorrectly the M9 service pistol may not operate correctly.

Assembly Procedure


To assemble the pistol, follow the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="558 640 1406 709">• Use your left hand to grasp the slide with the bottom facing up and the muzzle pointing toward the body.<li data-bbox="558 751 1317 821">• Use the right hand to grasp the barrel assembly with the locking block facing up.<li data-bbox="558 863 1409 968">• Use the index finger to push in the locking block plunger while placing the thumb on the base of the locking block as shown below: 

Continued on next page

Assemble the Pistol, Continued



Assembly Procedure, continued

Step	Action
2	<p data-bbox="548 527 1398 701">Insert the muzzle of the barrel assembly into the forward open end of the slide. At the same time, lower the rear of the barrel assembly by slightly moving the barrel downward. The locking block should fall into the notches of the slide assembly as shown below:</p> 
3	<p data-bbox="548 1421 1175 1453">Slip the recoil spring guide into the recoil spring.</p>

Continued on next page

Assemble the Pistol, Continued



Assembly Procedure, continued

Step	Action
4	<p data-bbox="548 527 1398 667">Insert the end of the recoil spring and recoil spring guide into the slide recoil spring housing. At the same time, compress the recoil spring and lower the spring guide until it is fully seated onto the locking block cutaway as shown below:</p> 
5	<p data-bbox="548 1220 1398 1329">Use the left hand to grasp the slide and barrel assembly, sights up, and wrap the fingers around the slide assembly to hold the recoil spring and guide in place as shown below:</p> 

Continued on next page

Assemble the Pistol, Continued

Assembly Procedure, continued

Step	Action
6	<p>Align the slide assembly guide rails onto the receiver assembly guide rails as shown below:</p> 
7	<p>Push the slide rearward while pushing up on the slide stop with the thumb. Lock the slide to the rear while maintaining upward pressure on the slide stop. Rotate the disassembly lever upward as shown below. Listen for a click—an audible click indicates a positive lock.</p> 

Continued on next page

Assemble the Pistol, Continued

Safety/Function Check The safety/function check is performed after assembling the M9. Follow the procedure listed in the table below to ensure the M9 is correctly assembled and ready to fire:

Step	Action
1	Make sure the weapon is in condition 4.
2	Depress the slide stop, allowing the slide to return fully forward. <u>Note:</u> At the same time, the hammer should fall to the full forward position.
3	Pull and release the trigger. <u>Note:</u> The firing pin block should move up and down, but the hammer should not move.
4	Place the safety in the fire position.
5	Pull the trigger to check the double action. <u>Note:</u> The hammer should cock and fall.
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull the trigger again and hold it to the rear. • Use the fingers and thumb of the left hand to grasp the serrated sides of the slide just forward of the safety. • Pull the slide to its rearmost position and release it while holding the trigger to the rear. • Release the trigger. You should hear a click and the hammer should not fall.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull the trigger to check the single action. The hammer should fall. • Place the safety in the safe position. <p><u>Note:</u> If the pistol does not pass the safety/function check, then see an armorer.</p>

Maintenance in Adverse Conditions

Introduction

Combat situations can place Marines in a variety of adverse conditions. Therefore, the M9 service pistol must be maintained properly to ensure its continued operation.

Extreme Cold

In extreme cold conditions, perform the following maintenance:

- Clean and lubricate the pistol inside at room temperature, if possible.
 - Apply a light coat of lubricant arctic weather (LAW) to all functioning parts.
 - Always keep the pistol dry by using the flap holster whenever possible.
 - Keep the pistol covered when moving from a warm to a cold area. This permits gradual cooling of the pistol and prevents freezing.
 - Never place a hot pistol in snow or on ice.
 - Keep snow out of the bore of the barrel. If snow should enter the bore, use a swab and cleaning rod to clean the bore before firing.
-

Hot/Wet Climates

In hot and wet conditions, maintenance must happen more frequently. The following guidelines will help the Marine keep the pistol serviceable:

- Inspect hidden surfaces for corrosion. If corrosion is found, clean and lubricate.
 - Remove handprints with a clean cloth to prevent corrosion.
 - Dry the pistol with a cloth and lubricate it with CLP.
 - Check ammunition and magazines frequently for corrosion. Disassemble and clean magazines with CLP and wipe dry with a clean cloth. If necessary, clean ammunition with a dry cloth.
-

Continued on next page

Maintenance in Adverse Conditions, Continued

Hot and Dry Climates

In a hot and dry climate, dust and sand can cause stoppages and excessive wear on component contact surfaces. Keep the weapon covered whenever possible. Do not lubricate the external parts of the weapon.

Heavy Rain or Fording Operations

In extremely wet operations, follow the instructions below:

- Always attempt to keep the pistol dry.
 - Drain any water from the barrel prior to firing.
 - Dry the bore with a swab and cleaning rod.
 - Generously lubricate internal and external surfaces.
-

Lesson 3 Exercise

Directions Complete exercise items 1 through 5 by performing the action required. Check your answers against those listed at the end of this lesson.

Item 1 The first step to disassemble the M9 pistol is to _____.

Item 2 Checking for free movement of the safety is performed to which part of the pistol?

- a. Magazine assembly
 - b. Barrel assembly
 - c. Slide assembly
 - d. Recoil spring and recoil spring guide
-

Item 3 Which lubricant is generally used to clean the pistol?

- a. CLP
 - b. LAV
 - c. CIL
 - d. ALW
-

Item 4 In which step of assembly should you hear an audible click?

- a. 1
 - b. 3
 - c. 5
 - d. 7
-

Item 5 The lubricant that is required for maintenance in extreme cold is _____.

Continued on next page

Lesson 3 Exercise, Continued

Solutions

The table below lists the answers to the exercise items. If you have questions about these items, refer to the reference page.

Item Number	Answer	Reference Page
1	Make sure the weapon is cleared, in condition 4, and on safe.	2-44
2	c	2-48
3	a	2-49
4	d	2-53
5	LAW	2-55

Summary

In this lesson, you learned how to disassemble, clean, and assemble the M9 service pistol. You learned how important it is to maintain the weapon to keep it completely operational.

In the next study unit, you will learn marksmanship fundamental.

STUDY UNIT 3

MARKSMANSHIP FUNDAMENTALS

Overview

Introduction The fundamentals of pistol marksmanship are aiming, trigger control, and breath control. Understanding and applying the basic pistol marksmanship fundamentals ensures the Marine's effectiveness in target engagement.

Scope This study unit will help the Marine build a solid foundation in the fundamentals of marksmanship. The outcome will be successful application of these fundamentals during combat.

In This Study Unit This study unit contains the following lessons:

Topic	See Page
Aiming, Trigger Control, and Breathing	3-3
Firing Positions	3-15

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LESSON 1

AIMING, TRIGGER CONTROL, AND BREATHING

Introduction

Scope The fundamentals of pistol marksmanship are aiming, trigger control, and breath control. Understanding and applying the basic pistol marksmanship fundamentals ensures the Marine's effectiveness in target engagement. The fundamentals must be continually studied and practiced. They are the means by which accurate shots are placed on target.

Content In this lesson, you will learn about the basic fundamentals of pistol marksmanship—aiming, trigger control, and breath control. You will also learn techniques to improve your accuracy while firing by applying these fundamentals.

Learning Objectives Upon completion of this lesson, you should be able to

- Determine the difference between sight alignment and sight picture.
- Identify the importance of a proper grip.
- Identify the procedure to establish a firm grip.
- Determine when uninterrupted or interrupted trigger control is best used.
- Identify the effects of breathing on aiming and firing the pistol.
- Identify the objective of breath control.

Continued on next page

Introduction, Continued

In This Lesson This lesson contains the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Introduction	3-3
Aiming	3-5
Trigger Control	3-8
Breath Control	3-10
Compressing the Fundamentals	3-11
Lesson 1 Exercise	3-12

Aiming

Introduction

Maintaining the correct relationship between the pistol sights is essential for accurate target engagement. There is a short distance between the pistol sights, and a small error in their alignment causes considerable error at the target.

Sight Alignment

Sight alignment is the relationship between the front sight and rear sight with respect to the aiming eye.

Correct Sight Alignment

Correct sight alignment is the front sight centered in the rear sight notch with the top edge of the front sight blade **aligned** with the top edge of the rear sight. When properly aligned, there will be equal space on either side of the front sight.

Example of Correct Sight Alignment

An example of correct sight alignment is shown below:



Continued on next page

Aiming, Continued

**Establishing
Sight
Alignment**

The pistol is fired without benefit of bone support. There will always be some motion, yet the Marine must continually strive to align the sights. To fire accurately, the sights must be aligned when the shot breaks.

Grip

The grip is key to acquiring sight alignment. If the grip is correct, the front and rear sights should align naturally. Dry fire during presentation of the M9 service pistol aids in obtaining a grip that allows sight alignment to be acquired consistently.

**Controlled
Muscular
Tension**

There must be enough controlled muscular tension in the grip, wrists, and forearms to hold the pistol steady and barrel level. This will help to maintain sight alignment. Consistent tension stabilizes the sights and maintains sight alignment.

Sight Picture

Sight picture is the placement of the front sight in relation to the target while maintaining sight alignment of the rear sight.

Continued on next page

Aiming, Continued

Aiming Area

Since the pistol is constantly moving, sight picture is acquired within an aiming area that is located center mass on the target. The aiming area allows for movement of the sights on the target while maintaining sight alignment. Each Marine defines an acceptable aiming area within his or her own ability to stabilize the sights.

Example of Aiming Area With Sight Alignment

An example of aiming area with sight alignment is shown below:



Relationship Between the Eye and Sights

The human eye can only focus on one object at a time. The shooter must focus on the top edge of the front sight while maintaining the relationship between the front and rear sights within the aiming area. The front sight will remain clear and distinct while the rear sight will be fuzzy and indistinct, yet recognizable.

Trigger Control

Introduction Trigger control is the Marine's skillful manipulation of the trigger that causes the pistol to fire while maintaining sight alignment and sight picture. Proper trigger control aids in maintaining sight alignment while the shot is fired.

Sight Alignment and Trigger Control Sight alignment and trigger control must be performed simultaneously to fire an accurate shot. As pressure is applied to the trigger, the sights may move, causing them to become misaligned.

Trigger control can actually assist in aligning the sights. With proper placement of the trigger finger and consistent muscular tension applied to the grip, the sights can be controlled as the trigger is moved to the rear.

Effective Trigger Control Trigger control is effective when the trigger is pulled to the rear without disturbing sight alignment or sight picture.

Grip A firm grip is essential for good trigger control. Follow the procedure in the table below to establish the grip:

Step	Action
1	Place the hand around the grip in a location that allows the trigger finger to move the trigger straight to the rear without disturbing sight alignment. <u>Note:</u> Make sure the hand is firm enough to allow manipulation of the trigger.
2	Make sure that the pressure applied is equal to or greater than the pressure required to move the trigger to the rear.
3	Place the finger naturally to allow free movement.

Continued on next page

Trigger Control, Continued

Types of Trigger Control

The two types of trigger control used with the M9 service pistol are

- Uninterrupted
 - Interrupted
-

Uninterrupted Trigger Control

During uninterrupted trigger control, apply a steady, unchanging pressure to the trigger until the shot is fired. This technique is particularly effective at close range when the target area is large and stability of hold is not critical for accuracy.

Applying Uninterrupted Trigger Control

To apply uninterrupted trigger control

- Apply pressure on the trigger while maintaining focus on the top edge of the front sight.
 - Move the trigger straight to the rear in a single, smooth motion with no hesitation.
-

Interrupted Trigger Control

Interrupted trigger control is particularly effective at longer ranges when the target is small and stability of hold is critical to maintaining sight picture in the aiming area.

Applying Interrupted Trigger Control

To apply interrupted trigger control when the pistol sights move outside the aiming area while applying trigger control, use the guidelines below:

- Stop and hold the rearward movement on the trigger until sight picture is re-established.
 - When sight picture is re-established, continue the rearward movement of the trigger until the shot is fired.
-

Breath Control

Introduction Being able to understand and control the effects that breathing can have on your shot will make you a much better marksman.

Effects of Breathing Breathing causes movement of the chest, abdomen, and shoulders that causes the pistol sights to move vertically while attempting to aim and fire. Therefore, it is necessary to stop breathing for a period of time while firing a shot or a series of shots.

Objective of Breath Control The objective of breath control is to stop breathing just long enough to fire the shot while maintaining sight alignment, stabilizing the sights, and establishing the sight picture. To be consistent, hold the breath at the same point in the breathing cycle or the natural respiratory pause.

Effects of Poor Breath Control Do not stop breathing for too long because it has adverse visual and physical effects. Holding the breath longer than is comfortable may result in a lack of oxygen causing vision to deteriorate and then affecting the ability to focus on the sights.

Compressing the Fundamentals

Introduction Pistol engagements typically occur over close distances and are short in duration. Because an immediate response to the threat is required, the application of the fundamentals must be a conditioned response executable in a compressed time.

Aiming in Combat Although the target must be quickly engaged in combat, sight alignment is still the first priority. Strive for a clear front sight. Distance to the target and the size of the target affects sight alignment as follows:

- As the distance to the target increases and the size of the target decreases, sight alignment becomes more critical to target engagement. Accurate sight picture/sight alignment cannot be compromised for speed.
 - Sight alignment is critical to the effective engagement of smaller targets such as partially exposed targets.
-

Trigger Control in Combat Proper trigger control aids in maintaining sight alignment while the shot is fired. As pressure is applied to the trigger, the sights may move, causing them to be misaligned.

Breath Control in Combat During combat, the Marine's breathing and heart rate often increase due to physical exertion or the stress of battle. The key to breath control in field firing is to stop breathing just long enough to fire an accurate shot or a series of shots.

Lesson 1 Exercise

Directions Complete exercise items 1 through 6 by performing the action required. Check your answers against those listed at the end of this lesson.

Item 1 What is the difference between sight alignment and sight picture

a. Sight alignment: _____

b. Sight picture: _____

Item 2 Why is a proper grip important in aiming?

Item 3 Through Item 5 Matching: For items 3 through 5, place the action to establish a firm grip in column 2 to the correct step in column 1. Place your answers in the spaces provided.

Column 1

Column 2

Step

Action

___ 3. Step 1

___ 4. Step 2

___ 5. Step 3

a. Make sure the pressure applied is equal to or greater than the pressure required to move the trigger to the rear.

b. Place the finger naturally to allow free movement.

c. Place the hand around the grip in a location that allows the trigger finger to move the trigger straight to the rear without disturbing sign alignment.

Continued on next page

Lesson 1 Exercise, Continued

Item 6

When is uninterrupted and interrupted trigger control most effective?

a. Uninterrupted: _____

b. Interrupted: _____

Item 7

What effect does breathing have on aiming and firing the pistol?

Item 8

What is the objective of breath control?

Continued on next page

Lesson 1 Exercise, Continued

Solutions

The table below lists the answers to the exercise items. If you have questions about these items, refer to the reference page.

Item Number	Answer	Reference Page
1	a. Sight alignment: The relationship between the front sight and rear sight with respect to the aiming eye b. Sight picture: Placement of the front sight in relation to the target while maintaining sight alignment of the rear sight.	3-5 and 3-6
2	If the grip is correct, the front and rear sights should align naturally.	3-6
3	c	3-8
4	a	3-8
5	b	3-8
6	a. Uninterrupted: Close range, when the target area is large and stability of hold is not critical for accuracy b. Interrupted: Target is small and stability of hold is critical to maintaining sight picture in the aiming area	3-9
7	Breathing causes movement of the chest, abdomen, and shoulders, which causes the pistol sights to move vertically while attempting to fire.	3-10
8	Stop breathing just long enough to fire the shot while maintaining sight alignment, stabilizing the sights, and establishing the sight picture	3-10

Summary

In this lesson, you learned about the basic fundamentals of pistol marksmanship—aiming, trigger control and breath control. You also learned techniques to improve your accuracy while firing by applying these fundamentals. In the next lesson, you will learn how to develop correct firing positions.

LESSON 2

FIRING POSITIONS

Introduction

Scope The M9 service pistol can be fired from the standing, kneeling, and prone positions. Each firing position may be adapted to either a Weaver or Isosceles variation with distinct advantages in either stance.

Content This lesson will focus on developing correct firing positions based on mobility, observation of the enemy, and stability.

Learning Objectives Upon completion of this lesson, you should be able to

- Identify the common elements of a good firing position.
- Identify the differences in mobility within the primary firing positions.
- Determine when the Weaver or Isosceles variations are best used.

In This Lesson This lesson contains the following topics:

Topic	See Page
Introduction	3-15
Considerations in Choosing a Good Firing Position	3-16
Pistol Firing Grip	3-18
Weaver and Isosceles Variations	3-20
Standing Position	3-22
Kneeling Position	3-25
Prone Position	3-29
Lesson 3 Exercise	3-33

Considerations in Choosing a Good Firing Position

Introduction A good firing position is critical in developing consistent, efficient, and effective marksmanship.

Three Elements There are three basic elements to a good firing position:

- Mobility
 - Observation of the enemy
 - Stability
-

Mobility A firing position must provide mobility should the Marine need to move. The table below shows the differences between the standing, kneeling, and prone positions:

Position	Differences
Standing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Permits maximum mobility because it can be quickly assumed• Permits the most lateral mobility to engage widely dispersed targets• Allows the Marine to move on to the next position quickly
Kneeling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows firing from various types of cover and can be quickly assumed• Does not offer as much mobility as the standing position for quick reaction
Prone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provides the least amount of mobility• Requires significant time to get into and out of position• Lacks the lateral mobility required to engage dispersed targets

Continued on next page

Considerations in Choosing a Good Firing Position, Continued

Observation of the Enemy

A firing position should allow observation of the enemy while minimizing the Marine's exposure. There are many obstructions to a clear view during combat.

- Standing allows the best observation, but the most exposure to the enemy.
 - Prone position normally allows the least exposure, but usually provides a limited field of view due to its lack of elevation.
 - Kneeling may provide a wider field of view, but generally provides less concealment.
-

Stability

A solid firing position establishes a stable foundation for target engagement and provides accurate and consistent shooting. In a stable position, the body can resist forces that cause motion. The standing position is the least stable, and the prone is the most stable.

Stability is extremely important in re-engaging targets in combat. A stable position will manage recoil while allowing the sights to return to the same position after each shot, providing for rapid and accurate firing.

Pistol Firing Grip

Introduction A proper grip means stability. Gaining and maintaining the proper grip can have tremendous effects on a shooter's ability to gain and maintain sight alignment and picture, manage recoil, and reduce movement of the sights.

Elements of a Proper Grip A proper grip is one that provides maximum control of the pistol before, during, and after firing. The elements of a proper grip are listed in the table below:

Firing	Action
Before	Stabilizes the pistol sights before firing
During	Allows trigger control to be applied during firing
After	Manages recoil after firing

Before Firing To fire an accurate shot, the sights must be stabilized prior to and as the bullet exits the muzzle of the pistol. A proper grip controls the alignment of the pistol's sights and stabilizes the sights so an accurate shot may be fired. The following guidelines apply to establishing a proper grip:

- Muscular tension in the wrist and forearms is required. Consistent muscular tension in the wrist, forearms, and grip helps maintain sight alignment. The grip is correct when it allows the sights to be naturally aligned to the aiming eye.
 - In a two-handed grip, equal pressure must be applied with both hands.
 - The hand should grip as high on the back strap as possible, bringing the centerline of the bore as close as possible to a parallel line with the bones in the forearm.
-

During Firing The Marine's grip provides a foundation for the movement of the trigger finger. The trigger finger applies positive pressure on the trigger as an independent action, completely free of the other muscles of the gripping hand.

CAUTION: Do not apply excessive pressure to the web of the hand touching the pistol's back strap. Excessive pressure interferes with the manipulation of the trigger by the trigger finger.

Continued on next page

Pistol Firing Grip, Continued

After Firing

Once a shot is fired, the pistol recoils, disturbing sight alignment. A proper grip ensures a quick recovery so that a target can be quickly re-engaged. During recoil, the Marine's grip determines

- The amount the muzzle climbs
 - How much the pistol will move laterally
-

Weaver and Isosceles Variations

Introduction The Weaver and Isosceles are two variations on the standard positions that were developed to ensure consistent and accurate fire with the M9 service pistol. Each variation has specific characteristics that help a Marine maximize effects on target.

Weaver General Description The Weaver variation is used in long-range engagements. Sight alignment and stability are easier to maintain. This position is excellent for making one precision shot on a target.

Isosceles General Description The Isosceles variation is effective at any distance; however, some aspects of the position make it more effective for close-range engagements. When confronted with a target, the natural physical reaction is to face the target and push out with the arms. This makes the Isosceles variation advantageous for quick engagements at close range. The Isosceles variation also promotes management of the recoil while allowing multiple shots in succession.



Comparison Table The table below shows the advantages and disadvantages of the two variations:

Variation	Advantage	Disadvantage
Weaver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional balance, control, and stability of hold during firing due to placement of the arms (left arm bent, pistol is in close to the body). • Easier to maintain sight picture because the picture's foundation is steady. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recoil has a greater impact due to the hand placement on the pistol (some of the pistol grip is exposed and pressure is applied in two different directions around the pistol). • Recovery of the sights back on target may take longer since recoil is affected.
Isosceles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recoil has a lesser impact because muscular tension and grip pressure are evenly distributed around the pistol. • Allows quicker recover of the sights on target. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stability of hold is degraded due to the pistol being further from the body without support. • Since it is harder to steady the pistol, acquiring sight picture becomes more difficult.

Continued on next page

Weaver and Isosceles Variations, Continued

Isosceles vs. Weaver Grip Compare the procedures for establishing an Isosceles or a Weaver grip in the table below:

Step	Isosceles	Weaver
1	Place the heel of the left hand on the exposed portion of the pistol grip in the pocket formed by the fingertips and heel of the right hand. <u>Note:</u> There should be maximum contact between the pistol grip and the hands.	Place the palm of the left hand over the front of the right hand so the palm covers the curled fingers of the right hand. <u>Note:</u> The trigger guard should rest in the “V” formed by the left thumb and forefinger. A portion of the pistol grip is exposed.
2	Wrap the fingers of the right hand.	Rest the trigger finger naturally, straight and outside of the trigger guard.
3	Rest both thumbs on the left side of the pistol pointed toward the target as shown below: 	Rest the left thumb against the receiver so that both thumbs are on the left side of the pistol as shown below: <u>Note:</u> The safety is disengaged with the right thumb. The left thumb is then placed over the right and applies pressure to hold the right thumb in place. 
4	Apply equal pressure on both sides of the pistol to allow for the best management of recoil.	Apply rearward pressure with the left hand and forward pressure with the right to stabilize the pistol during firing.

Standing Position

Introduction

Standing is the most often employed position during a pistol engagement, due to the short distance of the engagement and the nature of combat. When properly assumed, the standing position provides a stable base for firing, a clear field of view, and excellent mobility.

Weaver Standing


To assume the Weaver standing, follow the procedure in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Face the target and make a half turn to the right, keeping the pistol oriented toward the target. <u>Note:</u> The shoulders are angle to the target, the left shoulder forward of the right. The feet are shoulder width apart.
2	Grip the pistol grip firmly with the right hand. Assume the Weaver grip.
3	Keep the shoulders at a 40- to 60-degree angle to the target and raise the right arm and extend it across the body toward the target. <u>Note:</u> Make sure the right shoulder does not roll forward or turn toward the target.

Continued on next page

Standing Position, Continued

Weaver
Standing,
continued


Step	Action
4	<p data-bbox="548 527 1398 594">Extend the left arm to the target, bending the left elbow to join the left and right hands as shown below:</p> <p data-bbox="548 636 1398 703"><u>Note:</u> The left elbow is inverted and tucked in toward the body so the left arm supports the pistol.</p> 

Continued on next page

Standing Position, Continued

Isosceles Standing

To assume the Isosceles variation, follow the procedure in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Face the target with feet approximately shoulder width apart. The shoulders are squared to the target.
2	Grip the pistol firmly with the right hand.
3	Assume the Isosceles grip.
4	Elevate and extend the arms toward the target.
5	Roll the shoulders forward and shift the body weight to stabilize the position and better manage recoil. <u>Note:</u> The left foot may be slightly forward of the right to balance the position. There should be an equal amount of muscular tension on both sides of the body to best manage recoil.
6	Tuck the head between the shoulders. <u>Note:</u> The head is extended forward, but kept erect so the aiming eye can see through the sights. 

Kneeling Position

Introduction The kneeling position offers a smaller exposure than the standing position and greater stability. Increased stability makes the kneeling position effective for longer range shooting.

Isosceles Kneeling The advantage of the Isosceles variation is: it enables the Marine to fire over the top of cover while exposing less of the body to the threat. To assume the Isosceles kneeling follow the procedure in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Drop the right foot back or step forward with the left foot and place the right knee on the deck.
2	Square the shoulders to the target.
3	Extend the arms toward the target.
4	Lean forward with the shoulders rolled forward and the head tucked between the shoulders to better manage recoil.

Weaver Kneeling The advantage of the Weaver variation is that it provides bone support due to the left elbow's placement on the knee. The Weaver variation further enables firing from the side of cover while exposing less of the body to a threat. To assume the Weaver kneeling, follow the procedure in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Make a half turn to the right, drop the right foot back or step forward with the left foot, and place the right knee on the deck. <u>Note:</u> The body is positioned at a 40- to 60-degree oblique angle to the target.
2	Blade the shoulders at a 40- to 60-degree oblique to the target, the left shoulder forward of the right.
3	Extend the arms toward the target.
4	Bend forward at the waist to better manage recoil.
5	Place the flat part of the upper left arm, just above the elbow, in firm contact with the flat surface formed on top of the bent knee. <u>Note:</u> The point of the left elbow extends just slightly past the left knee.

Continued on next page

Kneeling Position, Continued

Adaptations to the Kneeling Positions

Each variation of the kneeling has four specific adaptations:

- High
 - Medium
 - Low
 - Two knee
-

High

In the high kneeling, the toes of the right foot are curled and in contact with the deck or the inside of the foot may be in contact with the deck. The buttocks may or may not rest on the right heel. The left leg is bent at the knee and the shin is straight up and down.

Medium

In the medium kneeling, the right ankle is straight with the foot stretched out and the bootlaces in contact with the deck. The left leg is bent at the knee and the left foot is flat on the deck. The right shin may be angled to the body to create a tripod of support for the position.

Low

In the low kneeling, the right ankle is turned so the outside of the foot is in contact with the deck and the buttocks are in contact with the inside of the foot.

Two Knee





In the two knee, both knees are on the deck. The toes may be curled to get into and out of the position quickly. Depending on the need for observation, the buttocks may or may not rest on the heels.

Continued on next page

Kneeling Position, Continued

Kneeling Illustrations





The kneeling in all of its variations and adaptations are shown below.

Adaptation	Isosceles	Weaver
High		
Medium		

Continued on next page

Kneeling Position, Continued

**Kneeling
Illustrations,
continued**

Adaptation	Isosceles	Weaver
Low		
Two knee		



Prone Position

Introduction

The prone position is easily assumed, stable, and presents a small target to the enemy. Since the prone places most of the body on the deck, it offers great stability. However, it is the least mobile of the firing positions and may restrict your view.

Squat Versus Drop Methods


To assume either the squat or drop method, it is necessary to move the body to the deck. The Weaver or Isosceles prone can be used with both methods. The procedures for using the squat and drop methods are listed below.

Step	Squat	Drop
1	<p data-bbox="537 758 922 856">Squat down and place the left hand on the deck as shown below:</p> 	<p data-bbox="969 758 1354 821">Drop to a kneeling position as shown below:</p> 

Continued on next page

Prone Position, Continued

Squat Versus Drop Methods, continued

Step	Squat	Drop
2	Kick both feet backward and come down on the right side of the body with the right arm extended toward the target.	Place the left hand on the deck in front of the body as shown below: 
3	Make sure the pistol does not aim at the body or the left hand.	Push the pistol out toward the target and roll the right side of the body onto the deck.
4		Make sure the pistol does not aim at the body or the left hand.

Continued on next page

Prone Position, Continued

Isosceles Prone The Isosceles prone variation is a straight leg position. It is very stable and provides an extremely low profile.

Assume the Isosceles Prone To assume the Isosceles prone, follow the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Stand facing the target. Grip the pistol in the right hand. <u>WARNING:</u> Make sure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction.
2	Move the body to the deck using either the squat or drop method.
3	Establish a two-handed firing grip on the pistol.
4	Spread the legs to a position that provides maximum stability. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The instep of both feet may be flat on the deck or the toes curled and dug into the deck as suits the needs of the shooter.• Leaving the right hand firmly on the deck and elevating the left may gain additional elevation. Make sure that as much contact as possible is maintained between the two hands.

Isosceles Prone Illustration The illustration below shows the completed Isosceles prone position:



Continued on next page

Prone Position, Continued

Weaver Prone The Weaver variation produces a cocked leg position by angling the body to the target and cocking the leg to support the position. This variation is ideal for firing behind cover.

Assume the Weaver Prone To assume the Weaver prone follow the procedure listed in the table below:

Step	Action
1	Face the target and make a half turn to the right placing the body at a 40- to 60-degree oblique to the target. <u>WARNING:</u> Make sure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction.
2	Move the body to the deck using the squat or drop method.
3	Bring the left knee up to support the firing position and to raise the diaphragm off the deck so as not to interfere with breathing. <u>Note:</u> The inside of the knee is resting on the deck to provide maximum stability.
4	Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol.
5	Place the left elbow on the deck. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For maximum stability, keep the grip firmly placed on the deck.• The head may rest against the right arm so the sights can be aligned. The sights should be as level as possible.

Weaver Prone Illustration The illustration below shows the completed Weaver prone position:



Lesson 2 Exercise

Directions Complete exercise items 1 through 6 by performing the action required. Check your answers against those listed at the end of this lesson.

Item 1 Which element of a good firing position allows the opportunity to move should the Marine have to?

- a. Stability
 - b. Observation of the enemy
 - c. Mobility
-

Item 2 What are the differences in mobility between the three primary firing positions for the M9 pistol?

a. Standing: _____

b. Kneeling: _____

c. Prone: _____

Item 3 Which element of a good firing position will manage recoil while allowing the sights to return to the same position?

- a. Stability
 - b. Observation of the enemy
 - c. Mobility
-

Continued on next page

Lesson 2 Exercise, Continued

- Item 4** Which element of a good firing position will minimize the Marine's exposure while allowing view of the enemy?
- a. Stability
 - b. Observation of the enemy
 - c. Mobility
-

- Item 5** Which firing position variation is best used in long-range engagements?
- a. Isosceles
 - b. Weaver
-

- Item 6** Which firing position variation promotes management of the recoil while allowing multiple shots in succession?
- a. Isosceles
 - b. Weaver
-

Continued on next page

Lesson 2 Exercise, Continued

Solutions

The table below lists the answers to the lesson exercise items. If you have questions about these items, refer to the reference page.

Item Number	Answer	Reference Page
1	c	3-16
2	<p>a. Standing: Permits maximum mobility because it can be quickly assumed, permits lateral mobility to engage widely dispersed targets, and allows the Marine to move on to the next position quickly.</p> <p>b. Kneeling: Can be quickly assumed and allows firing from various types of cover, and does not offer as much mobility as the standing position for quick reaction.</p> <p>c. Prone: Provides the least amount of mobility, requires significant time to get into and out of position, and lacks the lateral mobility required to engage dispersed targets.</p>	3-16
3	a	3-17
4	b	3-17
5	b	3-20
6	a	3-20

Summary

In this lesson, you learned about developing correct firing positions based on mobility, observation of the enemy, and stability.

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M9 PISTOL

REVIEW LESSON EXAMINATION

Review Lesson

Introduction

The purpose of the review lesson examination is to prepare you for your final examination. We recommend that you try to complete your review lesson examination without referring to the text, but for those items (questions) you are unsure of, restudy the text. When you finish your review lesson and are satisfied with your responses, check your responses against the answers provided at the end of this review lesson examination.

Directions

Select the ONE answer that BEST completes the statement or that answers the item. For multiple choice items, circle your response. For matching items, place the letter of your response in the space provided.

Item 1

The hammer cocks manually or mechanically before the trigger pull in _____ action mode.

- a. single
 - b. double
 - c. triple
 - d. quadruple
-

Item 2

Which mode requires a much longer trigger pull?

- a. Single
 - b. Double
 - c. Triple
 - d. Quadruple
-

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

**Item 3 Through
Item 5** Matching: For items 3 through 5, match the part in column 1 with its function in column 2.

Column 1

Column 2

Part

Function

- ___ 3. Slide assembly
- ___ 4. Barrel assembly
- ___ 5. Receiver assembly

- a. Provides the exit path (internally) for the round
 - b. Critical in the aiming process
 - c. Supports the weapon during firing
-

**Item 6 Through
Item 9** Matching: For items 6 through 9, match the component in column 1 with its major group in column 2. More than one answer may be chosen.

Column 1

Column 2

Component

Major Group

- ___ 6. Decocking/safety lever
 - ___ 7. Disassembly button
 - ___ 8. Front sight
 - ___ 9. Magazine catch assembly
-

- a. Slide assembly
- b. Receiver assembly

Item 10

As the locking block rotates out of the notches in the slide, which step of the cycle of operation does the slide assembly move to the rear?

- a. Step 1 - Firing
 - b. Step 2 - Unlocking
 - c. Step 3 - Extracting
 - d. Step 4 - Ejecting
-

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

Item 11 “The safety is off and the trigger is pulled to the rear, the hammer falls on the firing pin...” occurs in which step of the cycle of operation?

- a. Step 1 - Firing
 - b. Step 2 - Unlocking
 - c. Step 3 - Extracting
 - d. Step 4 - Ejecting
-

Item 12 Why is it important not to expose ammunition to sunlight?

- a. Causes damage to the operating parts of the pistol
 - b. Can cause higher chamber pressure
 - c. Can become corroded or dented
 - d. Remains unchanged
-

Item 13 MSgt Irby is checking her pistol for ammunition. She ensures her pistol is pointed down range. Which safety rule is MSgt Irby following?

- a. Rule 1 - Treat every weapon as if it were loaded.
 - b. Rule 2 - Never point your weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.
 - c. Rule 3 - Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you intend to fire.
 - d. Rule 4 - Keep the weapon on safe until you intent to fire.
-

Item 14 Which weapons condition code does not apply to the M9 service pistol?

- a. Condition code 1
 - b. Condition code 2
 - c. Condition code 3
 - d. Condition code 4
-

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

Item 15 When checking a weapon's condition in the _____ check, you keep the thumb in place and rotate the right hand fingers over the top of the slide in front of the rear sight.

- a. round indicator
 - b. chamber
 - c. function
 - d. barrel
-

Item 16 Through Item 21 Matching: For items 16 through 21 match the weapons command in column 1 with its description in column 2.

Column 1

Weapons Command

- ___ 16. Load
- ___ 17. Make ready
- ___ 18. Fire
- ___ 19. Cease fire
- ___ 20. Unload
- ___ 21. Unload, show clear

Column 2

Description

- a. Used when a second Marine must verify a condition 4 weapon
 - b. Takes a weapon from any condition to condition 4
 - c. Used to engage targets
 - d. Used to stop target engagement
 - e. Takes a weapon from condition 3 to condition 1
 - f. Takes a weapon from condition 4 to condition 3
-

Item 22 Who is responsible to correct malfunctions of the M9 pistol?

- a. Marine who has possession of the pistol
 - b. Marine's supervisor
 - c. Armorer
 - d. Either the Marine or the armorer
-

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

Item 23 Which weapons carry would you extend the arms and raise the pistol to just below eye level so a clear field of view is maintained?

- a. Alert
 - b. Active
 - c. Ready
 - d. Quick
-

Item 24 Using the _____ weapons transfer, a Marine would conduct a chamber check.

- a. show clear
 - b. condition unknown
 - c. alert
 - d. ready
-

Item 25 Instilling confidence in a Marine's ability to fire well-aimed shots in a combat situation is a method of

- a. mental preparation.
 - b. physical preparation.
 - c. combating stress.
 - d. speed and accuracy.
-

Item 26 What is the first step to disassemble the M9 service pistol?

- a. Hold the pistol in the right hand with the muzzle slightly elevated.
 - b. Pull the slide and barrel assembly forward and remove it.
 - c. Separate the recoil spring from the recoil spring guide.
 - d. Make sure the weapon is clear, in condition 4, and on safe.
-

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

Item 27 Which part is it important to insert the bore brush through the chamber to prevent damage to the crown of the barrel?

- a. Magazine assembly
 - b. Slide assembly
 - c. Receiver assembly
 - d. Barrel assembly
-

Item 28 Which lubricant is generally used in extreme cold conditions?

- a. CLP
 - b. LAW
 - c. M9
 - d. H20
-

Item 29 Correct _____ is when the front sight is centered in the rear sight notch with the top edge of the front sight blade aligned with the top edge of the rear sight.

- a. sight picture
 - b. sight alignment
 - c. aiming
 - d. sight picture and sight alignment
-

Item 30 When following the procedure to establish a firm grip, which step does “ensuring the pressure applied is equal to or greater than the pressure required to move the trigger to the rear” occur?

- a. Step 1
 - b. Step 2
 - c. Step 3
 - d. Step 4
-

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

Item 31 The importance of breath control is to reduce the effect of _____ on the pistol sights.

- a. movement
 - b. disturbance
 - c. breathing
 - d. interruption
-

Item 32 To stop breathing just long enough to fire the shot while maintaining sight alignment, stabilize the sights, and establish the sight picture is the objective of _____ control.

- a. breath
 - b. trigger
 - c. grip
 - d. breathing
-

Item 33 When a Marine requires a firing position that will allow quick movement to the next position, which position should be chosen?

- a. Isosceles
 - b. Kneeling
 - c. Prone
 - d. Sitting
-

Item 34 Major Ellsworth has established a firing position where he is using his knees for foundation. Which element of a good firing position is he exercising?

- a. Mobility
 - b. Observation
 - c. Stability
 - d. Overlooking
-

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

Item 35

Which firing position variation is most effective at any distance?

- a. Weaver
- b. Isosceles
- c. Olympic
- d. Kneeling

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

Answers

The table below lists the answers to the review lesson examination items. If you have questions about these items, refer to the reference page.

Item Number	Answer	Reference
1	a	1-5
2	b	1-6
3	b	1-7
4	a	1-7
5	c	1-7
6	a	1-9
7	b	1-9
8	a	1-10
9	b	1-10
10	b	1-17
11	a	1-17
12	b	1-23
13	b	2-5
14	b	2-6
15	b	2-9
16	f	2-12
17	e	2-15
18	c	2-16
19	d	2-16
20	b	2-17
21	a	2-19
22	c	2-21
23	c	2-31
24	b	2-35
25	c	2-38
26	c	2-44
27	d	2-49
28	b	2-55
29	b	3-5
30	b	3-8

Continued on next page

Review Lesson, Continued

Answers,
continued

Item Number	Answer	Reference
31	a	3-10
32	a	3-10
33	b	3-16
34	c	3-17
35	b	3-20
