

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

OFFICER CANDIDATES SCHOOL
TRAINING COMMAND
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WPN 1002
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SAFE WEAPONS HANDLING

TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES.

1. Given a service rifle/carbine, sling, (2) magazines, cleaning gear, individual field equipment, and ammunition, without references, perform weapons handling procedures with a service rifle/carbine, in accordance with the four safety rules. (0300-M16-1001)
2. Given a service rifle/carbine, sling, a filled magazine, individual field equipment, and a scenario where the weapon has experienced a stoppage and/or malfunction during the cycle of operation, perform corrective action by returning the weapon to service. 0300-M16-1003)

ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES.

- 1 . Without the aid of references, state the four weapons conditions without error. (0300-M16-1001b)
- 2 . Given a service rifle/carbine, two magazines and ammunition, execute weapons commands while observing the four safety rules without omission. (0300-M16-1001c)
- 3 . Given a service rifle/carbine, two loaded magazines and load-bearing equipment, execute the two types of reload to return the weapon to Condition 1. (0300-M16-1001g)
- 4 . Given a service rifle/carbine, two magazines, and ammunition, demonstrate the three weapons carries without violating the four safety rules at all times. (0300-M16-1001h)
- 5 . Given a service rifle/carbine, sling, and fighting load, demonstrate the four weapons transports without omission. (0300-M16-1001i)
- 6 . Given a service rifle/carbine in Condition 1, 3, or 4, sling, and magazines filled with blank ammunition, transfer the weapon to another person, while adhering to the four safety rules and in accordance with Chapter 3 of MCRP 3-01A. (0300-M16-1001j)
- 7 . Given a service rifle/carbine, sling, a filled magazine, and a scenario where the weapon has experienced a stoppage and/or malfunction during the cycle of operation, perform remedial action for "bolt forward or ejection port cover closed" to return the weapon to operation. (0300-M16-1003b)
- 8 . Given the requirement, a service rifle/carbine, sling, a filled magazine, and a scenario where the weapon has experienced a stoppage and/or malfunction during the cycle of operation, perform remedial action for "bolt locked to the rear" to return the weapon to full function. (0300-M16-1003c)
- 9 . Given the requirement, a service rifle/carbine, sling, a filled magazine, and a scenario where the weapon has experienced a stoppage and/or malfunction during the cycle of operation, perform remedial action for "brass obstructing the chamber area" to return the weapon to full function. (0300-M16-1003d)
- 10 . Given a service rifle/carbine, sling, a filled magazine, individual field equipment, and a scenario where the service rifle/carbine has experienced a stoppage and/or malfunction during the cycle of operation, perform the remedial action for "audible pop or reduced recoil" to return the weapon to full function. (0300-M16-1003e)

1. WEAPONS CONDITIONS, TRANSFERS AND RELOADS.

a. **Weapon Conditions.** A weapon's readiness is described by one of four conditions. The following steps in the loading and unloading process take the rifle through four specific conditions of readiness for live fire.

- (1) **Condition 1.** Safety on, magazine inserted, round in chamber, bolt forward, ejection port cover closed.
- (2) **Condition 2.** Not applicable to the service rifle/carbine rifle.
- (3) **Condition 3.** Safety on, magazine inserted, chamber empty, bolt forward, ejection port cover closed.
- (4) **Condition 4.** Safety on, magazine removed, chamber empty, bolt forward, ejection port cover closed.

b. **Determine the Weapon's Condition.** A Marine must know the condition of his weapon at all times. When taking charge of a weapon in any situation, you must determine its condition. Situations include coming across an unmanned rifle in combat, taking charge of any weapon after it has been unmanned (e.g., out of a rifle rack, stored in a vehicle), or taking charge of someone else's weapon. To determine the condition of the weapon in any of these situations, you should:

- (1) Point the muzzle in a designated SAFE DIRECTION.
- (2) Attempt to place selector lever on SAFE. If weapon is not cocked, lever cannot be placed on SAFE.
- (3) Remove the magazine by depressing the magazine catch button and pulling the magazine down.
- (4) To lock bolt open, pull charging handle rearward. Press bottom of bolt catch and allow bolt to move forward until it engages bolt catch. Return charging handle to full forward position. If you have not done so before, place the selector lever on SAFE.
- (5) Visually (not physically) inspect the receiver and chamber to ensure these areas contain no ammo.
- (6) With the selector lever pointing toward SAFE, allow the bolt to go forward by pressing the upper portion of the bolt catch.
- (7) Place the selector lever on SEMI and squeeze the trigger.
- (8) Pull the charging handle fully rearward and release it, allowing the bolt to return to the full forward position.
- (9) Place the selector lever on SAFE.
- (10) Close the ejection port cover.

c. **Transferring the Rifle.** Proper weapons handling is required every time a Marine picks up a weapon, passes a weapon to another Marine, or receives a weapon from another Marine. It is the responsibility of the Marine receiving or taking charge of a weapon to determine its condition. Depending on the situation, one of two procedures can be used to transfer a rifle from one Marine to another: show clear transfer and condition unknown transfer.

(1) Show Clear Transfer. When time and the tactical situation permit, the Marine should transfer the rifle using the show clear transfer. To properly pass a rifle between Marines:

- (a) The Marine handing off the rifle must perform the following procedures:
 - Ensure the rifle is on safe.
 - Remove the magazine if it is present.

- Lock the bolt to the rear.
- Visually inspect the chamber to ensure there is no ammunition present.
- Verbally state "Clear"¹
- Leave the bolt locked to the rear and hand the weapon to the other Marine.

(b) The Marine receiving the weapon must:

- Ensure the rifle is on safe.
- Visually inspect the chamber to ensure there is no ammunition present.
- Verbally state "Clear"²
- Release the bolt catch and observe the bolt going forward on an empty chamber.
- Close the ejection port cover.

(2) Condition Unknown Transfer. There are times when time or the tactical situation does not permit a show clear transfer of the rifle. The procedures for the condition unknown transfer are conducted by a Marine when he takes charge of a rifle in any situation when the condition of the rifle is unknown (e.g., an unmanned rifle from a casualty, a rifle stored in a rifle rack).

(a) To properly take charge of a rifle when its condition is unknown, the Marine must perform the following procedures:

- Ensure the rifle is on safe.
- Conduct a chamber check to determine the condition of the weapon.
- Remove the magazine and observe if ammunition is present. If time permits, count the rounds.
- Insert the magazine into the magazine well.
- Close the ejection port cover.

d. **Types of Reloads.**

(1) **Condition 1 reload.** A Condition 1 reload is performed when the weapon is in Condition 1 by replacing the magazine before it runs out of ammunition. To perform a condition 1 reload, perform the following steps:

(a) Withdraw a filled magazine from the magazine pouch. With the same hand, press the magazine button and remove the partially filled magazine so it can be retained in the remaining fingers.

(b) Fully insert the filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.

(c) Store the partially filled magazine in the magazine pouch with rounds up and projectiles pointing away from the body.

¹ **Note: This performance step is not included in the reference (MCRP 3-01A, Chap 3, Pg. 11), but is included because it is recommended by experts and is common practice in the fleet.**

² See above

(d) Fasten the magazine pouch.

(2) **Dry reload.** A dry reload is required when the magazine has been emptied and the bolt has locked to the rear. To perform a dry reload perform the following steps:

(a) Press the magazine release button.

(b) Remove the empty magazine and retain it on your person when time permits.

(c) Fully insert a filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.

(d) Depress the bolt catch to allow the bolt carrier to move forward and observe the round being chambered. This places the rifle in Condition 1.

2. **WEAPONS COMMANDS.**

a. Weapons commands dictate the specific steps required to load and unload the rifle. Six commands are used in the Marine Corps during weapons handling:

(1) **Load.** This command is used to take the weapon from Condition 4 to Condition 3.

(2) **Make ready.** This command is used to take the weapon from Condition 3 to Condition 1.

(3) **Fire.** This command is used to specify when shooters may engage targets.

(4) **Cease-Fire.** This command is used to specify when shooters must immediately stop firing.

(5) **Unload.** This command is used to take the weapon from any condition to Condition 4.

(6) **Unload and show clear.** This command is used when an observer must check the weapon to verify that no ammunition is present before the rifle is placed in Condition 4.

b. **Loading the Rifle.** Perform the following steps to load the rifle (take the rifle to Condition 3):

(1) Ensure the rifle is on safe.

(2) Withdraw the magazine from the magazine pouch.

(3) Inspect the magazine to ensure it is filled.

(4) Fully insert the magazine into the magazine well. Without releasing the magazine, tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is seated.

(5) Close the ejection port cover.

(6) Fasten the magazine pouch.

c. **Making the Rifle Ready.** Perform the following steps to make the rifle ready for firing (take the rifle to Condition 1):

(1) Pull the charging handle to the rear and release.

(a) There are two methods of doing this:

1) Grip the pistol grip firmly with the right hand and pull the charging handle with the left hand to its rearmost position and release.

2) Grip the hand guards firmly with the left hand and pull the charging handle with the right hand to its rearmost position and release.

(2) To ensure ammunition has been chambered, conduct a chamber check to ensure a round has been chambered.

(3) Check the sights (to ensure proper battle sight zero [BZO] setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.).

(4) Close ejection port cover.

d. **Fire.** On the command "Fire," aim the rifle, take the rifle off safe, and pull the trigger.

e. **Cease-Fire.** On the command "Cease Fire," perform the following steps:

(1) Place your trigger finger straight along the receiver.

(2) Place the weapon on safe.

f. **Unloading the Rifle.** Perform the following steps to unload the rifle (take the rifle to Condition 4):

(1) Ensure the weapon is on safe.

(2) Remove the magazine from the rifle and retain it on your person.

(3) Cup the left hand under the ejection port, rotate the weapon until the ejection port faces down.

(4) Pull the charging handle to the rear and catch the round in the left hand.

(5) Lock the bolt to the rear.

(6) Put the weapon on safe if the selector lever would not move to safe earlier.

(7) Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.

(8) Depress the bolt catch and observe the bolt moving forward on an empty chamber.

(9) Close the ejection port cover.

(10) Check the sights (for proper BZO setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.).

(11) Place any ejected round into the magazine and return the magazine to the magazine pouch and close the magazine pouch.

g. **Unloading and Showing the Rifle Clear.** Perform the following steps to unload the rifle and show it clear to an observer (take the rifle to Condition 4).

(1) The Shooter:

(a) Ensures the weapon is on safe.

(b) Removes the magazine from the rifle and retains it.

(c) Cups the left hand under the ejection port, rotates the weapon until the ejection port faces down.

(d) Pulls the charging handle to the rear and catches the round in the left hand.

(e) Locks the bolt to the rear and ensures the chamber is empty and that no ammunition is present.

(f) Has another Marine inspect the weapon to ensure no ammunition is present.

(2) The observer:

(a) Visually inspects the chamber to ensure it is empty, no ammunition is present, and the magazine is removed.

(b) Ensures the weapon is on safe.

(c) Acknowledges the rifle is clear.

(3) The shooter, after receiving acknowledgment that the rifle is clear:

(a) Depresses the bolt catch and observes the bolt moving forward on an empty chamber.

(b) Closes the ejection port cover.

(c) Checks the sights (for proper BZO setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.).

(d) Places any ejected round into the magazine and returns the magazine to the magazine pouch and closes the magazine pouch.

3. **THREE WEAPONS CARRIES.**

a. **Tactical Carry.** Carry the rifle at the tactical carry if no immediate threat is present. The tactical carry permits control of the rifle while moving, but allows quick engagement of the enemy. Perform the following steps to assume the tactical carry:

(1) Place left hand on the hand guards, right hand around the pistol grip, trigger finger straight along the receiver, and right thumb on top of the selector lever.

(2) Place the butt stock along the side of the body at approximately hip level.

(3) Angle the muzzle upward about 45 degrees in a safe direction.

(4) Position the muzzle in front of the eyes, slightly below eye level.

(5) Move the head and the eyes with the muzzle as it moves.



b. **Alert Carry.** Carry the rifle at the alert if enemy contact is likely. The alert is also best for moving in close terrain (e.g., urban, jungle). You can engage the enemy faster from the alert than from the tactical carry. However, the alert is more tiring than the tactical carry and its use can be physically demanding. Performs the following steps to assume the alert:

(1) Place the left hand on the hand guards, the right hand around the pistol grip, the trigger finger straight along the receiver, and the right thumb on top of the selector lever.

(2) Place the butt stock in the shoulder.

(3) Angle the muzzle downward about 45 degrees and point it in a safe direction or the general direction of likely enemy contact.



c. **Ready Carry.** Carry the rifle at the ready if contact with the enemy is imminent. The ready allows immediate target engagement, but it is very tiring to maintain over a long period of time. Perform the following steps to assume the ready:

(1) Place left hand on hand guards, right hand around the pistol grip, the trigger finger straight along the receiver and the right thumb on top of the selector lever.

(2) Place the butt stock in the shoulder.

(3) Point the muzzle in the direction of the enemy.



4. THE FOUR WEAPONS TRANSPORTS.

a. **Strong Side Sling Arms Transport (Muzzle Up).** To assume the strong side sling arms (muzzle up) transport from the tactical carry, perform the following steps:

- (1) Release the hold on the pistol grip.
- (2) Lower the butt stock and bring the rifle to a vertical position.
- (3) With the right hand, grasp the sling above the left forearm.
- (4) With the left hand, guide the rifle around the right shoulder.
- (5) With the right hand, apply downward pressure on the sling. This stabilizes the rifle on the shoulder.



b. **Weak Side Sling Arms Transport (Muzzle Down).** The weak side sling arms (muzzle down) transport can be used in inclement weather to keep moisture out of the rifle's bore. To assume this transport from the tactical carry, perform the following steps:

- (1) Release the hold on the pistol grip.
- (2) With the left hand, rotate muzzle down and bring the rifle to a vertical position on the left side of the body. The pistol grip is pointed outboard.
- (3) With right hand, place sling on left shoulder.
- (4) Grasp sling above the waist with the left hand.
- (5) With the left hand, apply downward pressure on the sling. This stabilizes the rifle on the shoulder.



c. **Cross-Body Sling Arms Transport.** Use the cross-body sling arms transport if you require both hands for work. The rifle is slung across the back with the muzzle up or down. Normally, the rifle is carried with the muzzle down to prevent pointing the muzzle in an unsafe direction. To assume a cross-body sling transport, perform the following steps from weak side sling arms (muzzle down):

(1) **Muzzle down.**

- (a) With the right hand, grasp the sling.
- (b) With the left hand, grasp the hand guards.
- (c) Pull up on the rifle with both hands.
- (d) Slide the sling over the head.
- (e) Position the rifle so that it rests comfortably across the back.



(2) To assume a cross-body sling transport, perform the following steps from strong side sling arms (muzzle up):

- (a) With the left hand, grasp the sling.
- (b) With the right hand, grasp the pistol grip.
- (c) Pull up on the rifle with both hands.

- (d) Slide sling overhead.
- (e) Position the rifle so that it rests comfortably across the back.



5. THE FOUR INDICATORS FOR REMEDIAL ACTION.

a. **Observe For Indicators.** Once the rifle ceases firing, visually or physically observe the ejection port to identify the problem before clearing it. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on observation of one of the following four indicators:

(1) **Indicator: The bolt is forward or the ejection port; cover is closed.**

- (a) Seek cover if the tactical situation requires.
- (b) Tap the bottom of the magazine.
- (c) Rack Pull the charging handle to the rear and release it.
- (d) Bang Sight in and attempt to fire.

(2) **Indicator: Brass is obstructing chamber area.** (usually indicates a double feed or failure to eject).

- (a) Seek cover if the tactical situation requires.
- (b) Attempt to remove the magazine.
- (c) Attempt to lock the bolt to the rear. If the bolt will not lock to the rear, rotate the rifle so the ejection port is facing down; hold the charging handle to the rear as far as it will go and shake the rifle to free the round(s). If the rounds do not shake free, hold the charging handle to the rear and strike the butt of the rifle on the ground or manually clear the round.

- (d) Conduct a reload. Sight in and attempt to fire.

(3) **Indicator: The bolt locked to the rear and the ejection port cover is open.**

- (a) Seek cover if the tactical situation requires.
- (b) Remove and retain empty magazine.
- (c) Conduct a dry reload. Sight in and attempt to fire.

(4) **Indicator: Audible pop or reduced recoil.** An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced recoil and is sometimes accompanied by excessive smoke escaping

from the chamber. The round may be jammed in the barrel, so **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RELOAD AND FIRE!** If the bolt will not lock to the rear, rotate the rifle so the ejection port is facing down.

- (a) Seek Cover if tactical situation permits
- (b) Finger straight and off the trigger
- (c) Place rifle in condition 4
- (d) Remove bolt carrier group
- (e) Inspect bore for obstruction
- (f) Insert cleaning rod into bore from muzzle
- (g) Reassemble the rifle
- (h) Conduct Reload
- (i) Sight in and attempt to fire

NOTES:

REFERENCE- TITLE

Operator's Manual for Rifle,
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