

Part I

Marksmanship in the Marine Corps



Chapter 1

Introduction to Marksmanship Training

The Marine Corps' marksmanship program teaches and reinforces fundamental shooting skills with a systematic shift to the combat application of these skills. The application of these fundamentals is taught in three basic phases: preparatory marksmanship (phase I), known-distance firing (phase II), and field firing (phase III). These phases teach Marines the correct application of marksmanship fundamentals while functioning individually or as a member of a unit engaged in combat.

————— **Note** —————

The phases should be taught in sequence to achieve the best results.

FMFM 0-8, *Basic Marksmanship*, addresses training concepts for phase I preparatory training and phase II known-distance firing. This manual, FMFM 0-9, focuses on the third phase, or field firing portion, of marksmanship training. The training concepts outlined in this manual build upon the training addressed in FMFM 0-8. This manual assumes the following elements of combat target engagement:

- Most combat targets consist of several men irregularly deployed. These men use all available cover and concealment (e.g., natural terrain features, structures, tree lines, and vegetation).
- Most combat targets are detected by smoke, flash, dust, noise, or movement and are only visible momentarily.

- The range of battlefield targets will vary and a Marine must apply the fundamentals of marksmanship to engage targets out to the maximum effective range of his weapon.
- While engaging enemy targets, a Marine is under considerable stress caused by fear, fatigue, unnatural hardship, and the noise of battle.
- A Marine will engage combat targets of varying dimensions and appearance during daylight and under conditions of low light and darkness.
- In some situations, engagement is initiated and sustained without benefit of fire commands.
- The successful engagement of any target depends on the effective application of sound marksmanship fundamentals; i.e., well-aimed fire.

1001. Phase I: Preparatory Marksmanship Training

During phase I, Marines develop a sound foundation of marksmanship knowledge and performance skills. This phase provides the basis for all follow-on marksmanship training. Marines develop and master weapons handling skills at this level. Therefore, marksmanship fundamentals should be studied and practiced frequently. Upon completion of

phase I training, Marines should have the knowledge and skill required to complete phase II training.

Phase I preparatory marksmanship training for the M16A2 rifle trains and evaluates Marines based on the following individual training standards (ITSs):

- Performing weapons handling procedures with the M16A2 rifle.
- Performing preventive maintenance on the M16A2 rifle.
- Engaging a target with the M16A2 rifle at the sustained rate.
- Zeroing the M16A2 rifle.

FMFM 0-8 contains ITSs for the M16A2 rifle.

1002. Phase II: Known-Distance Firing

During phase II, Marines apply the knowledge and firing techniques learned in phase I on a known-distance (KD) range. Immediate feedback is critical to identify areas that need improvement. Through the application and conduct of live fire, Marines further develop their firing techniques. During this

techniques become instinctive and that Marines continue to refine their weapons handling skills.

Phase II known-distance firing trains and evaluates Marines based on the following M16A2 rifle ITS:

- Engaging stationary targets with the M16A2 rifle at known distances.

1003. Phase III: Field Firing

During phase III, Marines further develop the fundamental techniques taught during phases I and II and apply them in a field firing environment. Phase III training should be conducted immediately upon

completion of phases I and II. The techniques taught during phase III must be refined until they can be applied instinctively and simultaneously. Proper training in phase III helps develop confidence with the weapon. Performance feedback is critical to ensure quality training is maintained throughout the developmental training process. Phase III marksmanship training prepares Marines to engage targets during combat situations.

a. Field Firing Objectives. Field firing's objectives include—

- Applying marksmanship fundamentals under a variety of environmental conditions experienced during combat.
- Developing individual confidence so Marines can effectively place rounds on a target under combat conditions.
- Developing the skills and knowledge required to—
 - Act decisively when presented with a target.
 - Apply the fundamentals of marksmanship without hesitation.

b. M16A2 Rifle. Phase III field firing trains and evaluates Marines based on the following M16A2 rifle ITSs:

- Engaging targets of limited exposure (time) with the M16A2 rifle.
- Engaging targets during low light and darkness with the M16A2 rifle.
- Engaging targets with the M16A2 rifle while wearing a field protective mask.
- Engaging multiple targets with the M16A2 rifle.
- Engaging moving targets with the M16A2 rifle.
- Engaging targets at unknown distances with the M16A2 rifle.

c. **Conduct of Training.** Field firing training consists of classroom lectures, demonstrations, and practical application. Live fire exercises are used extensively to present realistic target arrays in a

variety of field firing scenarios. Live fire exercises allow instructors to train and evaluate a Marine's field firing skills.