
Pistol Marksmanship



U.S. Marine Corps

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

To Our Readers

Changes: Readers of this publication are encouraged to submit suggestions and changes that will improve it. Recommendations may be sent directly to Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command, Doctrine Division (C 42), 3300 Russell Road, Suite 318A, Quantico, VA 22134-5021 or by fax to 703-784-2917 (DSN 278-2917) or by E-mail to morgann@mccdc.usmc.mil. Recommendations should include the following information:

- 1 Location of change
 - Publication number and title
 - Current page number
 - Paragraph number (if applicable)
 - Line number
 - Figure or table number (if applicable)
- 1 Nature of change
 - Add, delete
 - Proposed new text, preferably double-spaced and typewritten
- 1 Justification and/or source of change

Additional copies: A printed copy of this publication may be obtained from Marine Corps Logistics Base, Albany, GA 31704-5001, by following the instructions in MCBul 5600, *Marine Corps Doctrinal Publications Status*. An electronic copy may be obtained from the Doctrine Division, MCCDC, world wide web home page which is found at the following universal reference locator: <http://www.doctrine.usmc.mil>.

Unless otherwise stated, whenever the masculine gender is used, both men and women are included.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
Headquarters United States Marine Corps
Washington, D.C. 20380-1775

25 November 2003

FOREWORD

Marines must have the versatility, flexibility, and skills to deal with any situation at any level of intensity across the entire range of military operations. Whenever the situation warrants the application of deadly force, a Marine must be able to deliver well-aimed shots to eliminate the threat. A Marine who is proficient in pistol marksmanship handles this challenge without escalating the level of violence or causing unnecessary collateral damage. It is not enough to simply provide Marines with the best available firearms; we must also ensure that their training prepares them to deliver accurate fire against the enemy under the most adverse conditions without hesitancy, fear, or uncertainty of action. A well-trained Marine is confident that he can protect himself, accomplish the mission, and protect his fellow Marines. To be combat ready, a Marine must be skilled in the tactics, techniques, and procedures of pistol marksmanship and diligent in the proper care and maintenance of the M9, 9-mm service pistol.

Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 3-01B, *Pistol Marksmanship*, is the Marine Corps' source document for pistol marksmanship and provides the doctrinal basis for Marine Corps pistol marksmanship training. This publication provides all Marines armed with a pistol with the tactics, techniques, and procedures for range and field firing the M9, 9-mm service pistol.

MCRP 3-01B supersedes the discussion of pistol marksmanship in Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 0-8, *Basic Marksmanship*.

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

EDWARD HANLON, JR.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Combat Development Command

Publication Control Number: 144 000138 00

Distribution A: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1. The M9 Service Pistol

Functional Capabilities	1-1
Single-Action Mode	1-1
Double-Action Mode	1-1
Nomenclature	1-1
Major Components	1-1
Slide Assembly	1-1
Safety Features	1-3
Decocking/Safety Lever	1-3
Firing Pin Block	1-3
Half-Cock Notch	1-4
Cycle of Operation	1-4
Firing	1-4
Unlocking	1-4
Extracting	1-4
Ejecting	1-4
Cocking	1-5
Feeding	1-5
Chambering	1-5
Locking	1-5
Ammunition	1-6
Wearing of the M9 Service Pistol's Gear	1-6
M12 Holster	1-6
M1 Ammunition Pocket	1-7
M7 Shoulder Holster	1-7
Assault Holster	1-7
Concealed Pistol Holster	1-7
Lanyard	1-10
Firing the M9 Service Pistol While Wearing Gloves	1-10
Preventive Maintenance	1-11
Pistol Disassembly	1-11
Disassembly of the Magazine	1-12
Inspection of the Pistol	1-13
Cleaning and Lubricating the Pistol	1-13
Pistol Re-assembly	1-14
Pistol Magazine Re-assembly	1-14
Safety/Function Check	1-14
User Serviceability Inspection	1-15
Pistol Maintenance in Adverse Conditions	1-15
Extreme Cold	1-15
Hot, Wet Climates	1-15
Hot, Dry Climates	1-16

Heavy Rain and Fording Operations	1-16
Amphibious Conditions	1-16

Chapter 2. Weapons Handling

Safety Rules	2-1
Weapons Conditions	2-2
Determining a Weapon's Condition	2-2
Checking the Round Indicator	2-2
Conducting a Chamber Check	2-2
Weapons Commands	2-3
Loading the Pistol	2-4
Making the Pistol Ready	2-5
Fire	2-5
Cease Fire	2-6
Unloading the Pistol	2-6
Unloading and Showing the Pistol Clear	2-7
Emptying the Magazine	2-7
Filling the Magazine	2-7
Reloading the Pistol	2-8
Dry Reload	2-8
Condition 1 Reload	2-11
Reloading Considerations	2-12
Remedial Action	2-13
Stoppage	2-13
Malfunction	2-13
Remedial Action	2-13
Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil	2-14
Weapons Carries	2-15
Alert	2-15
Ready	2-16
Weapons Transports	2-16
Holster Transport	2-16
Administrative Transport	2-17
Combat Mindset	2-17
Physical and Mental Preparation	2-18
Threat Levels	2-18
Transferring the Pistol	2-19
Show Clear Transfer	2-19
Condition Unknown Transfer	2-20

Chapter 3. Fundamentals of Pistol Marksmanship

Aiming	3-1
Sight Alignment	3-1
Establishing Sight Alignment	3-1
Sight Picture	3-1
Relationship Between the Eye and the Sights	3-2

Trigger Control	3-2
Sight Alignment and Trigger Control	3-2
Grip	3-2
Trigger Finger Placement	3-3
Types of Trigger Control	3-3
Breath Control	3-3
Application of Marksmanship Fundamentals in Field Firing	3-3
Compression of Fundamentals	3-3
Aiming	3-4
Trigger Control	3-4
Breath Control	3-4

Chapter 4. Pistol Firing Positions and Grip

Pistol Firing Position	4-1
Mobility	4-1
Observation of the Enemy	4-1
Stability	4-1
Pistol Firing Grip	4-2
Before Firing: Stabilize the Sights	4-2
During Firing: Allow Trigger Control	4-2
After Firing: Manage Recoil	4-2
Withdrawing the Pistol From the Holster	4-3
Weaver and Isosceles Variations	4-4
Standing Position	4-5
Weaver Standing Position	4-5
Isosceles Standing Position	4-7
Kneeling Position	4-7
Weaver Kneeling Position	4-8
Isosceles Kneeling Position	4-9
Prone Position	4-10
Weaver Prone Position	4-10
Isosceles Prone Position	4-12
Natural Body Alignment	4-13

Chapter 5. Use of Cover and Concealment

Cover Materials	5-1
Dirt	5-1
Cinder Blocks	5-1
Trees, Logs, and Telephone Poles	5-1
Sandbags	5-1
Considerations for Firing From Cover	5-2
Adjusting the Firing Position	5-2
Applying the Weaver and Isosceles Variations	5-2
Keeping the Body Behind Cover	5-2
Providing Support for the Position and the Pistol	5-3
Changing Positions	5-5
Moving	5-5

Supported Firing Positions	5-5
Supported Prone	5-6
Supported Kneeling	5-6
Supported Standing	5-6
Locate and Engage Targets From Behind Cover	5-7
Pie Technique	5-7
Rollout Technique	5-8
Combining the Pie and Rollout Techniques	5-8

Chapter 6. Presentation of the M9 Service Pistol

Sight Alignment/Sight Picture	6-1
Presentation From the Carries and Holsters	6-1
Presentation From the Ready	6-1
Presentation From the Alert	6-1
Presentation From a Holster Transport	6-2
Presentation While Assuming the Kneeling Position	6-7
From the Ready	6-7
From the Alert (Arms Straight)	6-7
From the Alert (Close Quarters, Elbows Bent)	6-8
From the Holster Transport	6-8
Presentation While Assuming the Prone Position	6-8
Isosceles Prone	6-8
Weaver Prone	6-8
Search and Assess	6-8

Chapter 7. Pistol Engagement Techniques

Target Detection	7-1
Movement	7-1
Sound	7-1
Improper Camouflage	7-1
Techniques of Fire	7-2
Double and Single Action Firing	7-2
Single Action or Double Action Firing Factors	7-2
Two-Shot Technique	7-3
Slow Fire Technique	7-3
Re-engagement Techniques	7-3
Slow Fire Technique	7-3
Two-Shot Technique	7-4
Offset Aiming	7-4
Multiple Targets	7-4
Combat Mindset	7-4
Prioritizing Targets	7-5
Engaging Multiple Targets	7-5
Moving Targets	7-6
Types of Moving Targets	7-6
Leads for Moving Targets	7-7

Methods of Engagement	7-7
Applying the Fundamentals of Marksmanship	7-8

Chapter 8. One-Handed Techniques

Presentation and Shooting	8-1
Adjustment of the Standing Position	8-1
Searching and Assessing After Firing	8-2
Reloading	8-2
Dry Reload	8-2
Condition 1 Reload	8-4
Remedial Action	8-5
Presentation From the Holster With the Weak Hand	8-7
Method One: Pistol Rotation	8-7
Method Two: Hand Rotation	8-8
Method Three: Knee Placement	8-9
Transferring the Pistol From One Hand to the Other	8-10

Chapter 9. Advanced Techniques

Shooting on the Move	9-1
Moving With the Pistol	9-1
Moving: The Glide Technique	9-1
Engaging Targets: Using the Pistol Sights	9-1
Continuing to Move	9-2
Reloading and Stoppages	9-2
Turn and Fire	9-2
Engaging Targets 90 Degrees to the Right and Left	9-2
Engaging Targets 180 Degrees to the Rear	9-3

Chapter 10. Low Light and Darkness Techniques

Combat Mindset	10-1
Night Vision Adaptation and Maintenance	10-1
Night Vision Adaption	10-1
Night Vision Maintenance	10-1
Target Detection Techniques	10-1
Off-Center Vision	10-2
Scanning/Figure Eight Scan	10-2
Effects of Illumination	10-2
Acquiring Targets at Night	10-3
Sight Alignment/Sight Picture	10-3
Flashlights	10-3
Types of Flashlights	10-3
Activation Devices	10-3
Types of Lenses	10-3
Target Detection	10-4
Target Engagement	10-5

CHAPTER 1

THE M9 SERVICE PISTOL

The Marine Corps' uses the M9 service pistol as a defensive weapon. It is a semiautomatic, magazine-fed, recoil-operated, double-action pistol. The M9 service pistol's magazine holds 15 rounds and is chambered with a 9-mm ball (NATO M882 round). The M9 service pistol has a maximum effective range of 50 meters (54.7 yards).

Note: The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines reverse instructions as necessary.

Functional Capabilities

When the M9 service pistol's safety lever is moved to the firing position, it can be fired in either 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

The single-action mode allows the pistol to be fired when the hammer is cocked; single action requires the hammer to be cocked to the rear before the trigger is pulled. The hammer can be manually cocked or mechanically cocked. The hammer is mechanically cocked after the first shot is fired. See figure 1-1.



Figure 1-1. Single-Action Mode.

Double-Action Mode

The double-action mode causes the hammer to move to the rear as the trigger is being pulled. See figure 1-2.



Figure 1-2. Double-Action Mode.

Nomenclature

See figure 1-3 on page 1-2.

Major Components

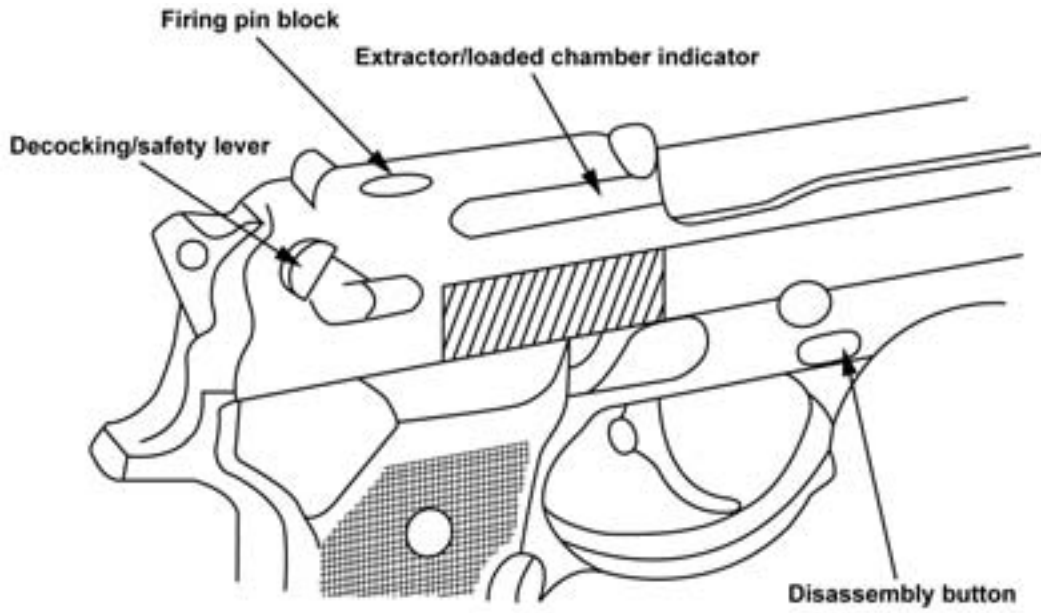
The M9's major components consist of the slide assembly, barrel assembly, and receiver. See figure 1-4 on page 1-3.

Slide Assembly

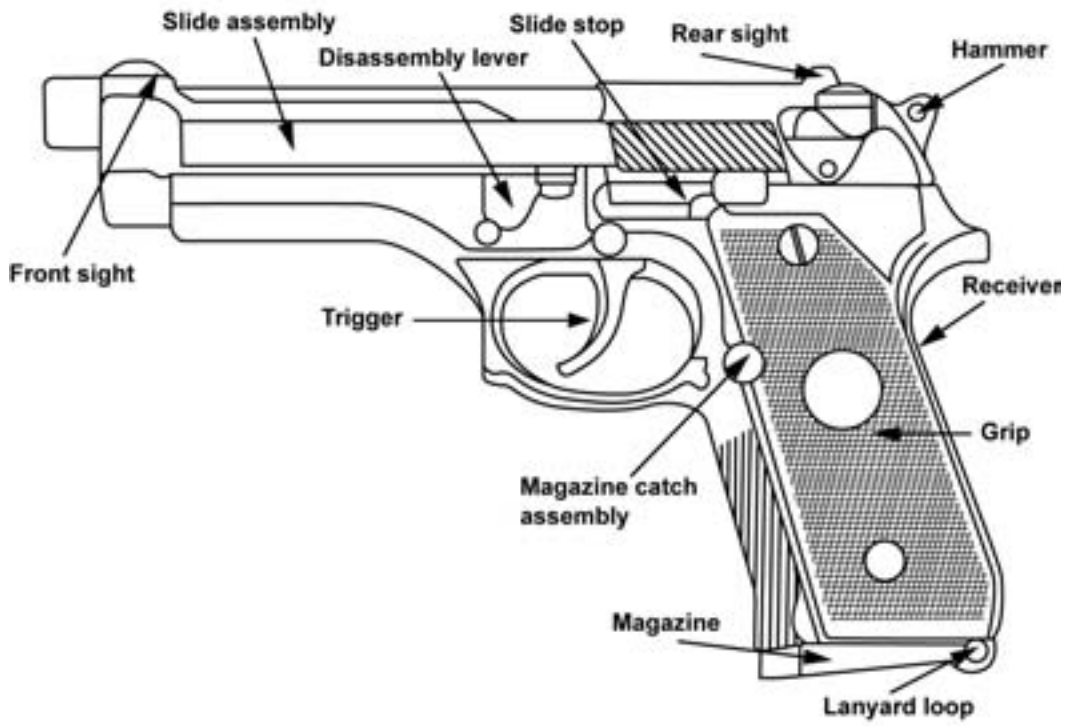
The slide assembly houses the firing pin, firing pin block, striker, extractor, and loaded chamber indicator, and it cocks the hammer during recoil.

Extractor

The extractor pulls the brass from the chamber after the round is fired.



Right Side View



Left Side View

Figure 1-3. M9 Service Pistol.