

RIFLE MARKSMANSHIP

In accordance with the mission that the corps is asked to perform, all marine warriors, regardless what their assignments, are rated as a qualified rifleman. As such whatever position you presently hold in your unit, you should be able to fire your issued weapon with accuracy and precision. Your proficiency in handling the rifle may save your life of that and other marines in combat.

Essentially to be qualified rifleman, you must first be able to assume the correct firing positions which will make you and your rifle a single unit. Secondly, you must know to correctly align your rifle with the target and fire the rifle without disturbing this alignment.

A. PRINCIPLE OF GOOD MARKSMANSHIP

The following are the basic principles of good rifle marksmanship which you should master.

- 1) **PROPER AIMING** - In aiming, the firer must concern himself on how to correctly point his rifle so that his projectile will hit his target when he fires. To do this, he must have his rear sight, the blades of his front sight and the target or aiming points in their proper relationship as shown in the following figure.
 - a. **Sight alignment** - To obtain correct sight alignment, the top center of the front sight blade must be in the rear sight aperture. If an imaginary horizontal line were drawn through the center of the rear sight of the aperture, the top of the front sight blade. The firer can ensure that he has a perfect sight alignment by concentrating his attention and focusing his eye on the front sight blade through the indistinct or fuzzy appearing rear sight aperture. By doing this any error in the sight alignment can easily be detected and corrected.
 - b. **Placement in aiming point** - An aiming point is the specific area on the target on which the firer is aligning his rifle sights. A correctly placed aiming point is exactly centered on and appears to touch the top of the sight blade.
- 2) **Steady hold** - Steady hold is the technique of holding the rifle as steady as possible when aligning the sights and when firing the weapon. Following are the sight factors that may affect your holding of a rifle in a steady position :

- a) **Grip of the left hand** - The grip on the rifle should be relaxed but at the same time exerting a slight rearward pressure. The left elbow should be placed directly under the rifle such that bones, and not the muscles of the arm support the rifle.
- b) **Rifle butt in the pocket of the shoulder** - The firer must place the rifle butt into the pocket of the flesh which is formed in his right shoulder. The proper placement of the rifle butt lessens the effect of the recoil, helps steady the rifle and prevents the rifle butt from slipping.
- c) **Grip of the right hand** - The firer's right hand should grip the small of the stock firmly but not rigidly. A firm rearward pressure must also be exerted by the right hand to keep the rifle butt in the proper position in the pocket of the shoulder and to keep it secured enough against the shoulder.
- d) **Right elbow** - This provides balance to the firer's position. When correctly positioned, the right elbow forms a pocket of flesh in the shoulder where it is rested.
- e) **Spot weld** - It is the point of firm contact between the firer's cheek and thumb on the small of the stock. The firm contact between the head, hand, and rifle enables the head and weapon to recoil as one unit, thereby facilitating rapid recovery to proper firing position after every round is fired.
- f) **Breathing** - If the firer continues his breathing while aiming, the movement of his chest will cause corresponding movement on his weapon. Initially, you should take a normal breath. You should not hold your breath for more than 10 seconds. Otherwise your vision will blur and the strain in your lungs will cause muscular tension.
- g) **Relaxation** - You should be able to relax properly in each firing position. Undue muscular strain or tension causes a movement on the rifle.
- h) **Trigger control** - The trigger finger should control the trigger at some point between the tip and second joint of the finger. The finger must not touch the side of the stock, as this will cause unnecessary pressure to be applied at a slight angle rather than the straight of the rear.

B. RIFLE FIRING POSITION

1) **PRONE POSITION**

- a) **Step one** - Stand at ready position facing your target. Your left foot slightly forward.
- b) **Step two** - Drop to your knees.
- c) **Step three** - Slowly drop to the ground. Hold the heel of the rifle with your right hand.
- d) **Step four** - Hit the ground with the left elbow as far right as forward possible.
- e) **Step five** - Place the butt of the rifle on your shoulder and press your cheek against the small of the stock while firing.
- f) **Step six** - Grasp the pistol grip with your right hand and keep your elbow slanted on the ground.
- g) **Step seven** - Keep your feet well apart for added stability. Your shoulder must be level with the ground.

2) **SITTING POSITION**

- a) **STEP ONE** - Stand at ready position with your left foot crossed over your right foot.
- b) **STEP TWO** - Slowly drop to the ground, breaking your fall with your right hand. Keep your feet in place.
- c) **STEP THREE** - Your feet must be either crossed or placed slightly apart, whichever is more comfortable or offer a more stable firing position.
- d) **STEP FOUR** - Place left elbow far down or inside left leg.
- e) **STEP FIVE** - Place the rifle butt on your shoulder and press your cheek against the stock.
- f) **STEP SIX** - Place your right elbow on inside of your right leg. Grasp the pistol grip with finger on the trigger. Your back should be bent well forward. The closer you keep your elbows to the ground, the steadier you will be.

3) **KNEELING POSITION**

- a) **STEP ONE** - Stand at ready position with your feet at comfortable distance apart, to ensure perfect balance. Also distribute your weight equally on both of your feet.
- b) **STEP TWO** - Place the rifle butt on your shoulder while holding your left arm under the rifle in the most comfortable and balanced position. Your left hand should be grasping the upper handguard, slightly forward at the balance of the rifle.
- c) **STEP THREE** - Grasp the pistol grip with the ball of your finger on the trigger. Keep your elbow in line with or above your shoulder.
- d) **STEP FOUR** - When in standing position, always keep your body erect.