

Chapter 7

Presentation of the M9 Service Pistol

In combat, targets present themselves with little or no warning. The Marine must have the ability to react quickly and present his weapon efficiently whether the pistol is in the holster or at a carry. To successfully engage a combat target with the M9 service pistol, the Marine must master weapons presentation from the carries and transport, presentation while assuming a firing position, and search and assess techniques.

Note

The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines must reverse directions as needed.

7001. Presentation of the M9 Service Pistol from the Carries and Holsters

a. Weapons Presentation as an Aid to Achieving Sight Alignment/Sight Picture. Pistol presentation drills and dry fire will help the Marine achieve a consistent grip and rapid presentation and aid in quickly acquiring sight alignment and sight picture.

- When the target is identified, quickly present the weapon to the target. At the same time, sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand. (Disengaging the safety with the right thumb ensures the trigger is not pulled before taking the weapon off safe.)
- As the pistol is presented, shift the focus from the target to the front sight to obtain sight alignment. As the front sight breaks the plane of vision, acquire the front sight and begin to apply trigger control as sight picture is acquired.
- Apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

b. Presentation from the Ready. To present the pistol from the Ready, perform the following steps in sequence. When a target appears:

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger and raise the arms to bring the weapon to the target.

Note

If the Marine wishes to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot, the pistol is thumbcocked with the left thumb after the safety is swept with the right thumb. The grip of the left hand may have to be broken to thumbcock the pistol; reestablish the grip after thumbcocking.

- Acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

c. Presentation from the Alert. To present the pistol from the Alert, perform the following steps in sequence. When a target appears:

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger, and bring the weapon to bear on the target:
 - If the arms are straight and at a 45-degree angle to the deck, raise the arms.
 - If the arms are bent, punch the arms out toward the target.

Note

If the Marine wishes to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot, the pistol is thumbcocked with the left thumb after the safety is swept with the right thumb. The grip of the left hand may have to be broken to thumbcock the pistol; reestablish the grip after thumbcocking.

- Acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

d. Presentation from a Holster Transport. The weapon should be presented from the holster in one continuous, fluid motion.

(1) Presentation from the M12 Holster Transport. To present the pistol from the M12 holster transport, perform the following steps in sequence:

- When a target appears, place the heel of the left hand at the center of the torso with the fingers extended toward the target. (The placement of the left hand should allow a two-handed grip to be established in a minimum amount of movement). At the same time, unfasten and release the D-ring with the right hand.
- With the right hand, place the thumb on the forward edge of the holster and the fingers around the back edge of the holster, keeping the trigger finger straight.
- Slide the hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip. At the same time, keep the thumb above the pistol to guide the holster flap up.
- Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers and draw the pistol straight up. Continue withdrawing the weapon while moving the thumb to a position on the safety.

Note

The hand placement should allow the firing grip to be established once the thumb disengages the safety. Any adjustments made to the firing grip after the safety is disengaged should be minor.

- Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward while sweeping the safety.
- Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the left hand with the right hand in front of the torso. At the same time, start to punch the weapon out toward the target. See figure 7-1.



Figure 7-1. Presentation from the M12 Holster.

- Continue punching the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired. See figure 7-2.



Figure 7-2. Presentation from the M12 Holster (Cont.).

- When time permits to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot (e.g., long-range engagements), present the pistol from the holster by performing the following steps:
 - When a target appears, withdraw the weapon from the holster.
 - Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand.
 - Join the left and right hands and thumbcock the pistol with the left thumb.
 - Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol.
 - Punch the weapon out toward the target and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

(2) Presentation from the M7 Shoulder Holster. The M9 service pistol fits very snugly in the M7 shoulder holster because the holster was originally designed for the M1911A1 45 caliber pistol which has a more slim, round design, particularly around the trigger guard. A firm grip is required when holstering and withdrawing the M9 service pistol from the M7 shoulder holster. To present the pistol from the M7 shoulder holster, perform the following steps:

- Unsnap the thumb snap closure with the left hand.
- Wrap the fingers of the right hand around the pistol grip and rest the thumb on top of the inside of the holster. See figure 7-3.



Figure 7-3. Presentation from the M7 Shoulder Holster.

- Grasp the pistol grip firmly and draw the pistol up and away from the holster while rotating the thumb in a position to operate the safety.
- Continue withdrawing the weapon until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle toward the target. See figure 7-4.



Figure 7-4. Presentation from the M7 Shoulder Holster (Cont.).

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand while starting to punch the weapon out toward the target.
- Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the right hand with the left hand in the center of the torso. See figure 7-5.



Figure 7-5. Presentation from the M7 Shoulder Holster (Cont.).

- Continue punching the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

(3) Presentation from the Assault Holster. To present the pistol from an assault holster, the following steps are performed in one, continuous motion:

- Bring the heel of the hand down on the hammer of the pistol so the meaty part of the heel disengages the thumb break. See figure 7-6.



Figure 7-6. Presentation from the Assault Holster.

- Sweep the hand forward in a small circular motion, slide the hand up the holster, and bring the fingers up under the pistol grip. See figure 7-7.

Note

Depending on the type of retention strap, this circular motion will release the retention strap or push the retention strap forward and out of the way.



Figure 7-7. Presentation from the Assault Holster (Cont.).

- Grasp the pistol grip and draw the pistol straight up and out of the holster while establishing a firing grip and positioning the thumb on the safety to operate it. See figure 7-8.



Figure 7-8. Presentation from the Assault Holster (Cont.).

(4) Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster. Depending on the clothing worn by the Marine, there are two methods for accessing the concealed pistol holster so that the clothing does not obstruct the Marine while presenting the pistol. To present the pistol from the concealed pistol holster, the following steps are performed in one, continuous motion:

- If the Marine is wearing a short jacket or sweater (waist-level) that is buttoned or zipped, the Marine:
 - When the target appears, move the left hand across the body and grasp the jacket or sweater just above the holster, at the same time place the right hand on the holster below the jacket or sweater. See figures 7-9 and 7-10.

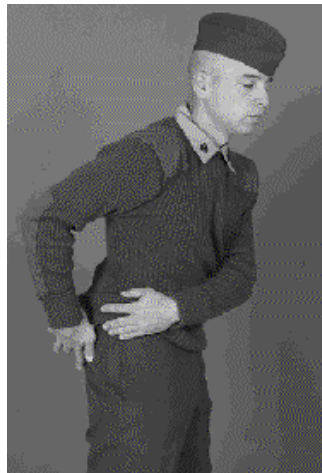


Figure 7-9. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster - Sweater.



Figure 7-10. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster - Short Jacket.

- Pull up on the jacket or sweater with the left hand. At the same time, slide the right hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip. Keep the thumb above the pistol to ensure the jacket or sweater clears the pistol. See figures 7-11 and 7-12.

Note

Leaning slightly forward at the waist may assist in clearing the jacket or sweater from the pistol, and will assist in removing the pistol from the holster.



Figure 7-11. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster - Sweater (Cont.).



Figure 7-12. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster - Short Jacket (Cont.).

- If the Marine is wearing a long jacket (below waist-level), or a short jacket or sweater that is unfastened, the Marine:

- When a target appears, place the heel of the left hand at the center of the torso to hold the left side of the jacket down with the fingers extended. At the same time, place the right hand on the right side of the jacket, with the thumb underneath the right side of the jacket below the left hand. See figure 7-13.



Figure 7-13. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster with Long Jacket.

- Keeping the thumb of the right hand against the body, throw the jacket back and away from the holster. See figure 7-14.

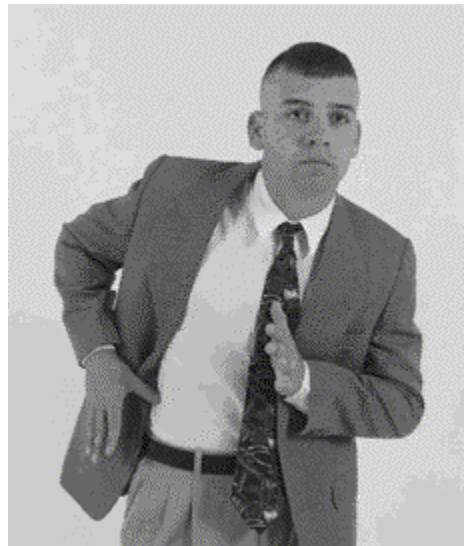


Figure 7-14. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster with Long Jacket (Cont.).

Note

Keeping a weighted object (keys, extra magazine, etc.) in the right-hand pocket of the jacket will assist in throwing the jacket back and away from the holster.

- Place the right hand on the holster and slide the hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip.
- Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers and draw the pistol straight up. Continue withdrawing the weapon while moving the thumb to a position on the safety.

Note

The hand placement should allow the firing grip to be established once the thumb disengages the safety. Any adjustments made to the firing grip after the safety is disengaged should be minor.

- Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward while sweeping the safety.
- Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the left hand with the right hand in front of the torso. At the same time, start to punch the weapon out toward the target.
- Continue punching the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

7002. Presentation While Assuming the Kneeling Position

The kneeling position is generally assumed to take advantage of cover or to provide a more stable base for shooting. In combat, the Marine must be able to quickly assume the kneeling position while presenting the weapon to bear on the target. To present the pistol while assuming the kneeling position, perform the following steps in sequence:

a. Isosceles and Weaver Variations from the Standing Carries**(1) Presentation from the Ready and from the Alert (arms straight):**

- When a target appears, drop to the kneeling position while raising the arms to bring the weapon to bear on the target.

Note

For the Weaver variation, maintain the body's position in a 40-60 degree oblique to the target.

- At the same time, sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

(2) Presentation from the Alert (close quarters, elbows bent):

- When a target appears, drop to the kneeling position while punching the arms out toward the target.

Note

For the Weaver variation, maintain the body's position in a 40-60 degree oblique to the target.

- At the same time, sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

b. Isosceles and Weaver Variations from the Standing Holster Transport

- When a target appears, withdraw the pistol from the holster while dropping to the kneeling position. The weapon should be rotated to the target by the time the knee hits the deck.
- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, establish a two-handed firing grip and:
 - In the Weaver Variation - raise the arms to bring the weapon to bear on the target.
 - In the Isosceles Variation - punch the weapon out toward the target.
- At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

7003. Presentation While Assuming the Prone Position

The prone position is generally assumed to take advantage of cover or to provide additional stability for shooting. To present the pistol while assuming the prone position, perform the following steps in sequence:

a. Isosceles Prone from the Standing Holster Transport

- When a target appears, withdraw the weapon from holster. At the same time, get the body on the deck by either the squat method or drop method. The weapon should be rotated to the target as the left hand is placed on the deck.
- Sweep the safety. If the Marine wishes to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot, it is done once the Marine is on the deck.

- Establish a two-handed firing grip while spreading the legs a comfortable distance apart for stability.
- Place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

b. Weaver Prone from the Standing Holster Transport

- When a target appears, withdraw the weapon from the holster. At the same time, get the body on the deck by either the squat method or the drop method. Maintain the 40-60 degree oblique to the target. The weapon should be rotated to the target as the left hand is placed on the deck.
- Sweep the safety. If the Marine wishes to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot, it is done once the Marine is on the deck.
- Bring the left knee up, establish a two-handed firing grip, and place the left elbow on the deck for stability.
- Place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

7004. Search and Assess

To be successful in combat, the Marine must have the ability to assess the situation and take appropriate action following engagement. Actions taken upon assessing the situation include re-engaging the target through a precision shot, two shots, or offset aiming; reloading; or assuming a carry or transport. The Marine's performance of these skills, along with proper application of the fundamentals of marksmanship, are the keys to his success in a combat situation.

a. Introduction. In combat, once a Marine fires one or two rounds to engage a target, he must quickly assess the situation and the effectiveness of his engagement.

- (1) This split-second assessment should be done quickly and allow the Marine to determine a best course of action.
- (2) Making a quick assessment prevents the Marine from the tunnel vision that can occur during combat engagement in which the Marine expends a number of rounds without assessing the results, often with little accuracy.
- (3) Immediately after target engagement, the Marine must assess the situation to determine if the threat has been eliminated and search the area to determine if there is a new target that must be engaged.

b. Search and Assess Procedure. To search and assess, perform the following steps in sequence:

- Immediately after a target is engaged, place the trigger finger straight along the receiver. Do not place the pistol on safe.
- Lower the arms just enough to look over the pistol sights and provide a clear field of view.
- Maintain the firing grip to keep the sights level and allow sight alignment and sight picture to be quickly reestablished should follow-on shots need to be fired.
- Do not just rotate the wrists to angle the pistol downward because this will break the firing grip and change the tension in the arms.
- Search the area by moving the head, eyes, and pistol left and right (approximately 45 degrees from center). Wherever the head moves, the muzzle moves (eyes, muzzle, target). Keeping both eyes open will increase the field of view.
- When it is determined the area is clear of all enemy threat, place the weapon on safe without breaking the grip, and assume a carry or transport.

c. Actions Taken Upon Assessing the Situation. If the target has not been eliminated, the Marine must determine whether to reengage the target.

- If the Marine decides to reengage the target, the size, time, distance to the target, and capabilities of the Marine will dictate the technique used. Reengagement techniques include re-engaging the target with a well-aimed precision shot, two shots, or offset aiming.
- If the target's distance exceeds the Marine's capabilities for engaging it or the target is partially exposed and too small for the Marine to accurately engage it, the Marine should not attempt to reengage the target. In this situation, the Marine may seek cover, seek out a better opportunity for engagement, or use support to better stabilize the weapon.
- If the threat has been eliminated, the Marine should proceed to search the area for other targets or assume a carry or transport.