

Chapter 9

One-Handed Techniques

Note

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

9001. One-Handed Presentation and Shooting

In combat, a situation may arise where the Marine must engage a target by using only one hand. Marines armed with the pistol are armed with this weapon primarily because they need their hands for other purposes, i.e., leading, directing, operating equipment, etc.

a. One-Handed Firing. A Marine will fire the pistol one-handed when:

- The Marine's other hand is occupied.
- A target presents itself so quickly, at a close range, that the Marine does not have time to establish a two-handed grip and position.
- One of the Marine's hands is injured.

b. Adjustment of the Standing Position. To fire accurately, the Marine must maintain the same stability and control of the weapon, manage recoil, and recover on target as effectively with one hand as with two. See figure 9-1. This is accomplished by adjusting the standing position as the weapon is presented to the target. A target can appear from anywhere. Therefore, the Marine's angle to the target may need to be adjusted. This adjustment is made while the pistol is being presented to the target by moving or sliding the feet to orient the body to the target. For stability and balance, the right foot may be slightly forward of the left foot. The further to the right of the Marine the target is the farther forward the right foot will be. To adjust the standing position when firing one-handed:

- Increase the muscular tension in the right arm and bend the elbow slightly so that when the weapon recoils, the arm will give and better manage recoil.
- For some Marines, muscular tension in the firing arm and the position of the body in relation to the target causes them to naturally cant the weapon inboard slightly. During recoil, the elbow breaks or bends as the muzzle climbs. A slight inboard cant of the weapon and firing arm allows a natural bend in the elbow which allows a better management of recoil and recovery of the sights back on target.

- Any cant should be natural and not caused by excessive muscular tension. A slight cant does not affect shooting performance and should not alter the application of the fundamentals of marksmanship.
- Apply controlled muscular tension throughout the body to better manage the effects of recoil.
- Lean forward aggressively, rolling the shoulders forward and tucking the head into the shoulders.

Note

The following step is done only during training to demonstrate how to stabilize the position and to simulate the Marine's other hand being occupied.

- Place the left hand in a fist on the center of the torso to increase stability. If the left arm is swinging freely, it will cause a corresponding movement in the pistol, reducing stability and control. Placing the left hand on the torso also ensures it is not covered by the muzzle of the weapon as the weapon is presented.



Figure 9-1. One-handed Presentation.

c. Searching and Assessing After Firing One-handed. Following one-handed target engagement, the Marine must quickly make a decision whether it would be to his advantage, if possible, to free his occupied hand to place both hands on the pistol to search and assess. Whenever possible, the Marine should place both hands on the weapon to increase stability and to be ready for reengagement if necessary.

9002. One-Handed Reloading

a. Dry Reload. When only one hand is available, the dry reload can be performed as follows:

- Seek cover, if the situation permits.
- Press the magazine release button and allow the magazine to fall to the deck.
 - When using the right hand, press the magazine release button with the thumb.
 - When using the left hand, press the magazine release button with the trigger finger.
- With the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, position the pistol to facilitate loading the magazine. Depending on the firing position, this can be accomplished using one of the following methods:
 - **Standing Position and Two-Kneed Kneeling Position.** Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces up and the muzzle of the weapon is pointed away from the body. Place the pistol between the thighs or knees and apply pressure to hold the pistol in place. See figure 9-2. In the standing position, the Marine will need to bend slightly at the knees to secure the pistol between the thighs. See figure 9-3.



Figure 9-2. One-Handed Dry Reload - Two-Kneed Kneeling Position.



Figure 9-3. One-Handed Dry Reload - Standing Position.

- **Kneeling Position (High, Medium, Low).** Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces outboard and the muzzle is pointed away from the body. Place the rear portion of the slide in the bend of the right knee and apply pressure with the leg to hold the pistol in place. For additional control, the Marine may drop to a two-kneed kneeling position and place the pistol between his knees. See figure 9-4.



Figure 9-4. One-Handed Dry Reload - Kneeling Position.

- **Prone Position.** In the prone position, the Marine will place the pistol on the deck in front of him and against his body with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Alternately, the Marine may roll on his side and place the pistol between his knees, with the magazine well facing out. See figure 9-5.



Figure 9-5. One-Handed Dry Reload - Prone Position.

- Withdraw a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket and insert it into the magazine well, seating it with the heel of the hand. See figures 9-6, 9-7, 9-8, and 9-9.



Figure 9-6. One-Handed Dry Reload – Two-Kneed Kneeling Position (Cont.).



Figure 9-7. One-Handed Dry Reload – Standing Position (Cont.).



Figure 9-8. One-Handed Dry Reload – Kneeling Position (Cont.).



Figure 9-9. One-Handed Dry Reload – Prone Position (Cont.).

- Grasp the pistol grip and remove the pistol from its secured location or from the deck.
- Press the slide release to allow the slide to move forward and chamber a round.
 - When using the right hand, press the slide release with the thumb.
 - When using the left hand, press the slide release with the index finger.

b. Condition 1 Reload. When only one hand is available, a Condition 1 reload can be performed as follows:

- With the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, position the pistol to allow for removal of the magazine (e.g., between the thighs, in the bend of the knee, in the holster, tucked in the cartridge belt, on the deck against the body). Any position is correct if it allows the magazine well to be exposed.
- Withdraw a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket.
- Press the magazine release button and remove the magazine from the pistol.
 - When using the right hand, press the magazine release button with the thumb.
 - When using the left hand, press the magazine release button with the index finger.
- Insert the filled magazine into the magazine well, seating it with the heel of the hand.
- Stow the partially filled magazine (e.g., inside the cartridge belt, in the cargo pocket).
- Grasp the pistol grip and remove the weapon from its secured location, keeping the trigger finger straight and off the trigger until ready to fire.

9003. One-Handed Remedial Action

Remedial action requires investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation. When performing remedial action, seek cover if the tactical situation permits. Once a weapon ceases firing, the Marine must visually or physically observe the weapon to identify the problem before he can clear it. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on what is observed.

- Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
- Lock the slide to the rear. To pull and lock the slide to the rear, push up on the slide stop and maintain pressure with the right thumb. (Push up on the slide stop with the left index finger if remedial action is being performed with the weak hand.) Secure the rear sight on the top of the cartridge belt or any other surface which will provide the resistance

needed to stabilize the pistol. See figure 9-10. While applying pressure on the pistol to keep the rear sight secured, push downward on the pistol in one continuous motion to lock the slide to the rear. See figure 9-11.

Note

Ensure the weapon does not go on safe when locking the slide to the rear.



Figure 9-10. One-Handed Remedial Action.



Figure 9-11. One-Handed Remedial Action (Cont.).

- Place the weapon in a position to observe the chamber.
- Correct the stoppage:
 - If there is a round in the magazine but not in the chamber:

- Release the slide and observe a round being chambered.
- If you do not observe a round being chambered:
 - **TAP:** Keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and placing the trigger finger straight along the receiver, strike the bottom of the magazine against a hard surface to ensure it is seated.
 - In the kneeling position, this is accomplished by striking the magazine against the thigh. See figure 9-12.



Figure 9-12. TAP the Magazine Against the Knee – Kneeling Position.

- In the standing position, bring the right knee up while striking the magazine against the right thigh. See figure 9-13.



Figure 9-13. TAP the Magazine Against the Knee – Standing Position.

- In the prone position, strike the magazine against the deck.
- **RACK:** To pull the slide to the rear, the Marine must place the pistol against a surface which will provide enough resistance to permit him to rack the slide fully to the rear and chamber a round.
- Rotate the pistol so the rear sight can be hooked on the top of the cartridge belt or any other surface (e.g., the edge of a table, wall, heel of the boot) which will provide the resistance needed to rack the slide in a smooth, uninterrupted motion. Do not let the muzzle of the weapon cover the body. See figures 9-14 and 9-15.



Figure 9-14. Rack Slide Against Cartridge Belt.



Figure 9-15. Rack Slide Against Heel of Boot.

- Apply pressure on the pistol to keep the rear sight secured while pushing downward on the pistol to move the slide fully to the rear.
- Release pressure on the pistol to chamber a round.

- **BANG:** Recover the pistol on target, reestablish sight alignment/sight picture and attempt to fire.

9004. Presentation from the Holster with the Weak Hand

In combat, the Marine must be prepared to engage targets at any time. Therefore, the Marine must have the ability to present the weapon from the holster with his weak (left) hand if circumstances prevent him from using his strong (right) hand. He must apply the same smooth, controlled movement to present the weapon to the target. There are three methods for withdrawing the pistol from the holster with the weak hand. The Marine should practice each to determine which method works best for him.

a. Method One - Pistol Rotation

- Unfasten and release the D-ring with the left hand. See figure 9-16.



Figure 9-16. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation.

- Wrap the fingers and thumb around the pistol grip so the index finger and thumb are around the base of the pistol grip. See figure 9-17.



Figure 9-17. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation (Cont.).

- Draw the pistol straight up until the trigger guard clears the top of the holster. See figure 9-18.



Figure 9-18. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation (Cont.).

- Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces the target and the trigger guard rests on the top of the holster. Ensure the trigger guard rests securely against the top of the holster. See figure 9-19.



Figure 9-19. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation (Cont.).

- Maintaining downward pressure on the pistol, slide the left hand around the pistol grip to facilitate establishing a firing grip. See figure 9-20.



Figure 9-20. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation (Cont.).

- Grasp the pistol and continue to withdraw the pistol until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle toward the target.
- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the left hand while starting to punch the weapon out toward the target. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, and establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area.
- Continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

b. Method Two - Hand Rotation

- Unfasten and release the D-ring with the left hand.
- Push the holster flap up and out of the way with the back of the left hand.
- Push the right hip out to facilitate grasping the pistol grip. Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers between the holster flap and the pistol grip and the thumb wrapped around the other side of the pistol grip, against the backstrap. See figure 9-21.

Note

The cartridge belt may be pulled with the left hand to bring the holster closer to the center of the body to facilitate grasping the pistol.



Figure 9-21. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Hand Rotation.

- Draw the pistol straight up while rotating the pistol so the magazine well faces inboard until the trigger guard rests on the holster. See figure 9-22. Establish a firing grip, and rotate the thumb to a position to operate the safety. See figure 9-23.



Figure 9-22. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Hand Rotation (Cont.).



Figure 9-23. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Hand Rotation (Cont.).

- Continue to withdraw the pistol until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle to the target. See figure 9-24.

**Figure 9-24. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Hand Rotation (Cont.).**

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the left hand while starting to punch the weapon out toward the target. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, and establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area.
- Continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

c. Method Three - Knee Placement. This method is particularly effective when firing from the two-kneed kneeling position and the standing position.

- Unfasten and release the D-ring with the left hand.
- Wrap the fingers and thumb around the pistol grip so the index finger and thumb are around the base of the pistol grip. Draw the pistol straight up until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle forward. The magazine well should face upward.
- Place the pistol between the thighs, applying enough tension to keep the pistol in place. The Marine must ensure that he does not disengage the safety while performing this motion and that the muzzle of the weapon is clear of the body. In the standing position, the Marine will need to bend at the knees slightly to facilitate securing the pistol between the thighs.
- Remove the left hand from the pistol grip and rotate the hand around the pistol grip to facilitate establishing a firing grip.

- Grasp the pistol grip and remove the pistol from the thighs, rotating the pistol until the muzzle is pointed toward the target.
- Sweep the safety with thumb of the left hand while starting to punch the weapon out toward the target.
- Establish a firing grip and continue to punch the weapon out toward the target. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger and establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area.
- Continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

9005. Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other

Situations may arise in combat where it is beneficial for the Marine to transfer the pistol to the left hand to engage a target because the right hand or arm is injured. To safely transfer the pistol from one hand to the other, perform the following steps:

Note

This procedure is written to transfer the pistol from the right hand to the left hand.

- With the muzzle pointed in the direction of the target, place the trigger finger straight along the receiver. See figure 9-25.



Figure 9-25. Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other.

- With the left hand, place the web of the index finger and thumb under the backstrap of the pistol. See figure 9-26.



Figure 9-26. Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other (Cont.).

- Wrap the fingers of the left hand around the pistol grip while releasing the grip of the right hand.
- Establish a firing grip with the left hand on the pistol. See figure 9-27.



Figure 9-27. Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other (Cont.).