

1. FOUR WEAPONS CONDITIONS.

a. A weapon's readiness is described by one of four conditions. The following steps in the loading and unloading process take the rifle through four specific conditions of readiness for live fire.

(1) Condition 1. Safety on, magazine inserted, round in chamber, bolt forward, ejection port cover closed.

(2) Condition 2. Not applicable to the M16A2 rifle.

(3) Condition 3. Safety on, magazine inserted, chamber empty, bolt forward, ejection port cover closed.

(4) Condition 4. Safety on, magazine removed, chamber empty, bolt forward, ejection port cover closed.

b. Determine The Weapons Condition. A Marine must know the condition of his weapon at all times. When a Marine takes charge of a weapon in any situation, he must determine its condition. Situations include coming across an unmanned rifle in combat, taking charge of any weapon after it has been unmanned (e.g., out of a rifle rack, stored in a vehicle), or taking charge of another Marine's weapon. To determine the condition of the weapon in any of these situations, the Marine should:

(1) Determine if a magazine is present.

(2) Ensure the rifle is on safe.

(3) Conduct a chamber check.

(4) Bring the left hand back against the magazine well.

(5) Extend the fingers of the left hand and cover the ejection port.

c. Types Of Reloads.

(1) Condition 1 reload. A Condition 1 reload is performed when the weapon is in Condition 1 by replacing the

magazine before it runs out of ammunition. To perform a condition 1 reload, perform the following steps:

(a) Withdraw a filled magazine from the magazine pouch. With the same hand, press the magazine button and remove the partially filled magazine so it can be retained in the remaining fingers.

(b) Fully insert the filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.

(c) Store the partially filled magazine in the magazine pouch with rounds up and projectiles pointing away from the body.

(d) Fasten the magazine pouch.

(2) **Dry reload.** A dry reload is required when the magazine in the weapon has been emptied and the bolt has locked to the rear. To perform a dry reload perform the following steps:

(a) Press the magazine release button.

(b) Remove the empty magazine and retain it on your person when time permits.

(c) Fully insert a filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.

(d) Depress the bolt catch to allow the bolt carrier to move forward and observe the round being chambered. This places the rifle in Condition 1.

2. **WEAPONS COMMANDS.**

a. Weapons commands dictate the specific steps required to load and unload the rifle. Six commands are used in the Marine Corps during weapons handling:

(1) **Load.** This command is used to take the weapon from Condition 4 to Condition 3.

(2) **Make ready.** This command is used to take the weapon from Condition 3 to Condition 1.

(3) **Fire**. This command is used to specify when a Marine may engage targets.

(4) **Cease-Fire**. This command is used to specify when a Marine must stop target engagement.

(5) **Unload**. This command is used to take the weapon from any condition to Condition 4.

(6) **Unload and show clear**. This command is used when an observer must check the weapon to verify that no ammunition is present before the rifle is placed in Condition 4.

b. **Loading The Rifle**. Perform the following steps to load the rifle (take the rifle to Condition 3):

(1) Ensure the rifle is on safe.

(2) Withdraw the magazine from the magazine pouch.

(3) Observe the magazine to ensure it is filled.

(4) Fully insert the magazine in the magazine well. Without releasing the magazine, tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is seated.

(5) Close the ejection port cover.

(6) Fasten the magazine pouch.

c. **Making The Rifle Ready**. Perform the following steps to make the rifle ready for firing (take the rifle to Condition 1):

(1) Pull the charging handle to the rear and release.

(a) There are two methods of doing this:

1) Grip the pistol grip firmly with the right hand and pull the charging handle with the left hand to its rearmost position and release.

2) Grip the hand guards firmly with the left hand and pull the charging handle with the right hand to its rearmost position and release.

(2) To ensure ammunition has been chambered, conduct a chamber check to ensure a round has been chambered.

(3) Check the sights (to ensure proper battle sight zero [BZO] setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.).

(4) Close ejection port cover.

d. **Fire.** On the command "Fire," aim the rifle, take the rifle off safe, and pull the trigger.

e. **Cease-Fire.** On the command "Cease Fire," perform the following steps:

(1) Place your trigger finger straight along the receiver.

(2) Place the weapon on safe.

f. **Unloading The Rifle.** Perform the following steps to unload the rifle (take the rifle to Condition 4):

(1) Ensure the weapon is on safe.

(2) Remove the magazine from the rifle and retain it on your person.

(3) Cup the left hand under the ejection port, rotate the weapon until the ejection port faces down.

(4) Pull the charging handle to the rear and catch the round in the left hand.

(5) Lock the bolt to the rear.

(6) Put the weapon on safe if the selector lever would not move to safe earlier.

(7) Ensure the chamber is empty and that no ammunition is present.

(8) Depress the bolt catch and observe the bolt moving forward on an empty chamber.

(9) Close the ejection port cover.

(10) Check the sights (for proper BZO setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.).

(11) Place any ejected round into the magazine and return the magazine to the magazine pouch and close the magazine pouch.

g. Unloading And Showing The Rifle Clear. Perform the following steps to unload the rifle and show it clear to an observer (take the rifle to Condition 4).

(1) The Marine-

(a) Ensures the weapon is on safe.

(b) Removes the magazine from the rifle and retains it.

(c) Cups the left hand under the ejection port, rotates the weapon until the ejection port faces down.

(d) Pulls the charging handle to the rear and catches the round in the left hand.

(e) Locks the bolt to the rear and ensures the chamber is empty and that no ammunition is present.

(f) Has another Marine inspect the weapon to ensure no ammunition is present.

(2) The observer-

(a) Visually inspects the chamber to ensure it is empty, no ammunition is present, and the magazine is removed.

(b) Ensures the weapon is on safe.

(c) Acknowledges the rifle is clear.

(3) The Marine, after receiving acknowledgment that the rifle is clear-

(a) Depresses the bolt catch and observes the bolt moving forward on an empty chamber.

(b) Closes the ejection port cover.

(c) Checks the sights (for proper BZO setting, correct rear sight aperture, etc.).

(d) Places any ejected round into the magazine and returns the magazine to the magazine pouch and closes the magazine pouch.

5. THREE WEAPONS CARRIES.

a. Tactical Carry. A Marine carries the rifle at the tactical carry if no immediate threat is present. The tactical carry permits control of the rifle while a Marine is moving, yet it still allows quick engagement of the enemy. A Marine performs the following steps to assume the tactical carry:

(1) Place left hand on the hand guards, right hand around the pistol grip, trigger finger straight along the receiver, and right thumb on top of the selector lever.

(2) Place the butt stock along the side of the body at approximately hip level.

(3) Angle the muzzle up-ward about 45 degrees in a safe direction.

(4) Position the muzzle in front of the eyes, slightly below eye level.

(5) Move the head and the eyes with the muzzle as it moves.



b. Alert Carry. A Marine carries the rifle at the alert if enemy contact is likely. The alert is also used for moving in close terrain (e.g., urban, jungle). A Marine can engage the enemy faster from the alert than from the tactical carry. However, the alert is more tiring than the tactical carry and

its use can be physically demanding. A Marine performs the following steps to assume the alert:

(1) Place the left hand on the hand guards, the right hand around the pistol grip, the trigger finger straight along the receiver, and the right thumb on top of the selector lever.

(2) Place the butt stock in the shoulder.

(3) Angle the muzzle downward about 45 degrees and point it in a safe direction or the general direction of likely enemy contact.



c. **Ready Carry**. A Marine carries the rifle at the ready if contact with the enemy is imminent. The ready allows immediate target engagement, but it is very tiring to maintain over a long period of time. A Marine performs the following steps to assume the ready:

(1) Place left hand on hand guards, right hand around the pistol grip, the trigger finger straight along the receiver and the right thumb on top of the selector lever.

(2) Place the butt stock in the shoulder.

(3) Point the muzzle in the direction of the enemy.



4. THE FOUR WEAPONS TRANSPORTS.

a. Strong Side Sling Arms Transport (Muzzle Up). To assume the strong side sling arms (muzzle up) transport from the tactical carry, a Marine performs the following steps:

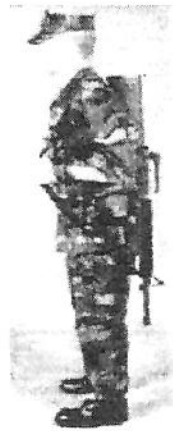
- (1) Release the hold on the pistol grip.
- (2) Lower the butt stock and bring the rifle to a vertical position.
- (3) With the right hand, grasp the sling above the left forearm.
- (4) With the left hand, guide the rifle around the right shoulder.
- (5) With the right hand, apply downward pressure on the sling. This stabilizes the rifle on the shoulder.



b. Weak Side Sling Arms Transport (Muzzle Down). The weak side sling arms (muzzle down) transport can be used in inclement

weather to keep moisture out of the rifle's bore. To assume this transport from the tactical carry, a Marine performs the following steps:

- (1) Release the hold on the pistol grip.
- (2) With the left hand, rotate muzzle down and bring the rifle to a vertical position on the left side of the body. The pistol grip is pointed outboard.
- (3) With right hand, place sling on left shoulder.
- (4) Grasp sling above the waist with the left hand.
- (5) With the left hand, apply downward pressure on the sling. This stabilizes the rifle on the shoulder.



c. **Cross Body Sling Arms Transport.** A Marine uses the cross body sling arms transport if he requires both hands for work. The rifle is slung across the back with the muzzle up or down. Normally, the rifle is carried with the muzzle down to prevent pointing the muzzle in an unsafe direction. To assume a cross body sling transport, a Marine performs the following steps from weak side sling arms (muzzle down):

- (1) **Muzzle down.**
 - (a) With the right hand, grasp the sling.
 - (b) With the left hand, grasp the hand guards.
 - (c) Pull up on the rifle with both hands.
 - (d) Slide the sling over the head.

(e) Position the rifle so that it rests comfortably across the back.



(2) To assume a cross body sling transport, a Marine performs the following steps from strong side sling arms (muzzle up):

- (a) With the left hand, grasp the sling.
- (b) With the right hand, grasp the pistol grip.
- (c) Pull up on the rifle with both hands.
- (d) Slide sling overhead.

(e) Position the rifle so that it rests comfortably across the back.



5. TRANSFERRING THE RIFLE.

Proper weapons handling is required every time a Marine passes a weapon to another Marine or receives a weapon from another Marine. It is the responsibility of the Marine receiving or

taking charge of a weapon to determine its condition. Depending on the situation, there are two procedures that can be used to transfer a rifle from one Marine to another: Show Clear Transfer and Condition Unknown Transfer.

a. **Show Clear Transfer.** To properly pass a rifle between Marines, perform the following procedures:

- (1) The Marine handing off the rifle must:
 - (a) Ensure the rifle is on safe.
 - (b) Remove the magazine if it is present.
 - (c) Lock the bolt to the rear.
 - (d) Visually inspect the chamber to ensure there is no ammunition present.
 - (e) Leave the bolt locked to the rear and hand the weapon to the other Marine.

- (2) The Marine receiving the weapon must:
 - (a) Ensure the rifle is on safe.
 - (b) Visually inspect the chamber to ensure there is no ammunition present.
 - (c) Release the bolt catch and observe the bolt going forward on an empty chamber.
 - (d) Close the ejection port cover.

b. **Condition Unknown Transfer.** The procedures for the Condition Unknown Transfer are conducted by a Marine when he takes charge of an unmanned rifle in any situation. To properly pass a rifle between Marines when its condition is unknown, the Marine receiving the weapon must perform the following procedures:

- (1) Ensure the rifle is on safe.
- (2) Conduct a chamber check to determine the condition of the weapon.

(3) Remove the magazine and observe if ammunition is present in the magazine. If time permits, count the rounds.

(4) Insert the magazine into the magazine well.

6. THE FOUR INDICATORS FOR REMEDIAL ACTION.

a. Observe For Indicators. Once the rifle ceases firing, the Marine must visually or physically observe the ejection port to identify the problem before he can clear it. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on observation of one of the following three indicators:

1) Indicator: The bolt is forward or the ejection port cover is closed.

(a) Seek cover if the tactical situation permits.

(b) Tap-Tap the bottom of the magazine.

(c) Rack-Pull the charging handle to the rear and release it.

(d) Bang-Sight in and attempt to fire.

(2) Indicator: Brass is obstructing chamber area.
(usually indicating a double feed or failure to eject).

(a) Seek cover if the tactical situation permits.

(b) Attempt to remove the magazine.

(c) Attempt to lock the bolt to the rear. If the bolt will not lock to the rear, rotate the rifle so the ejection port is facing down; hold the charging handle to the rear as far as it will go and shake the rifle to free the round(s). If the rounds do not shake free, hold the charging handle to the rear and strike the butt of the rifle on the ground or manually clear the round.

(d) Conduct a reload. Sight in and attempt to fire.

(3) Indicator: The bolt locked to the rear and the ejection port cover is open.

- (a) Seek cover if the tactical situation permits.
 - (b) Remove and retain empty magazine.
 - (c) Conduct reload. Sight in an attempt to fire.
- (4) **Indicator: Audible pop or reduced recoil.**

(a) If the bolt will not lock to the rear, rotate the rifle so the ejection port is facing down; hold the charging an audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced recoil and is sometimes accompanied by excessive smoke escaping from the chamber area. To clear the rifle in a combat environment:

- (b) Place the rifle in Condition 4.
- (c) Move take down pin from left to right as far as it will go to allow the lower receiver to pivot.
- (d) Remove the bolt carrier group.
- (e) Inspect the bore for an obstruction from the chamber end.
- (f) Insert a cleaning rod into the bore from the muzzle end and clear the obstruction.
- (g) Reassemble the rifle.
- (h) Conduct a reload.
- (i) Sight in and attempt to fire.

NOTES:

REFERENCE:

1. Rifle Marksmanship

MCRP3-01_

WEAPONS HANDLING QUIZ

NAME: _____

Date: _____

Class: _____

1. What is your first weapons safety rule verbatim?
2. What is your second weapons safety rule verbatim?
3. What is your third weapons safety rule verbatim?
4. What is your fourth weapons safety rule verbatim?
5. Identify the four weapons conditions in regards to the M16A2 service rifle?
6. What is the purpose of a condition 1 reload?
7. What are the four steps to perform a condition 1 reload?
8. When is a dry reload required?
9. What are the four steps to perform a dry reload?
10. What do weapons commands dictate?

11. What are the six commands used in the Marine Corps during weapons handling?

12. What are the three weapons carries?

13. A marine carries the rifle in the tactical carry if _____ (fill in the blank)

14. A marine carries the rifle in the alert carry if _____ (fill in the blank)

15. A marine carries the rifle in the ready carry if _____ (fill in the blank)

16. What are the four weapons transports?

17. Proper weapons handling is required _____ time a Marine passes a weapon to another Marine or receives a weapon from another Marine? (fill in the blank)

18. What are the two types of procedures used to transfer a rifle from one marine to another?

19. What are the four indicators for remedial action?

20. Bonus Question: Who are the only two Marines to be awarded the Medal of Honor two times?

WEAPONS HANDLING ANSWER KEY

1. TREAT EVERY WEAPON AS IF IT WERE LOADED
2. NEVER POINT A WEAPONS AT ANYTHING YOU DO NOT INTEND TO SHOOT
3. KEEP YOUR FINGER STRAIGHT AND OFF THE ^{TRIGGER} FINGER UNTIL YOU ARE READY TO FIRE
4. KEEP YOU WEAPON ON SAFE UNTILL YOU INTEND TO FIRE
5. (1) MAGAZINE INSERTED, ROUND IN THE CHAMER, BOLT FORWARD, SAFETY ON, EJECTION PORT COVER CLOSED. (2) DOES NOT APPLY (3) MAGAZINE INSERTED, NO ROUND IN THE CHAMBER, BOLT FORWARD, SAFETY ON, EJECTION PORT COVER CLOSED (4) NO MAGAZINE INSERTED, NO ROUND IN CHAMBER, BOLT FORWARD, SAFETY ON, EJECTION PORT COVER CLOSED.
6. TO REPLACE A MAGAZINE IN THE WEAPON BEFORE IT RUNS OUT OF AMMUNITION
7. WITHDRAW NEARLY EMPTY MAGAZINE, INSERT FULLY LOADED MAGAZINE, STORE NEARLY EMPTY MAG IN THE MAGAZINE POUCH, FASTED THE MAGAZINE POUCH.
8. WHEN THE MAGAZINE IN THE WEAPON HAS BEEN FULLY EMPTIED AND THE BOLT HAS LOCKED TO THE REAR
9. PRESS THE MAG RELEASE BUTTON, REMOVE EMPTY MAGAZINE AND RETAIN ON PERSON WHEN TIME PERMITS, INSERT FULL MAG IN THE MAGAZINE WELL AND TUG DOWN TO ENSURE IT IS PROPERLY SEATED, DEPRESS THE BOLT CATCH TO ALLOW THE BOLT CARRIER TO MOVE FORWARD AND OBSERVE THE ROUND BEING CHAMBERED.
10. DICTATE THE SPECIFIC STEPS REQUIRED TO LOAD AND UNLOAD THE RIFLE.
11. LOAD, MAKE READY, FIRE, CEASE FIRE, UNLOAD, UNLOAD SHOW CLEAR
12. TACTICAL, ALERT, READY
13. NO IMMEDIATE THREAT IS PRESENT
14. ENEMY CONTACT IS LIKELY
15. CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY IS IMMINENT
16. STRONG SIDE SLING ARMS (MUZZLE UP), WEAK SIDE SLING ARMS (MUZZLE DOWN), ~~CROSS-BODY SLING ARMS~~; CROSS BODY SLING UP, CROSS BODY SLING DOWN
17. EVERY
18. SHOW CLEAR TRANSFER, CONDITION UNKNOWN TRANSFER
19. THE BOLT IS FOREWARD OR THE EJECTION PORT COVER IS CLOSED, BRASS IS OBSTRUCTING THE CHAMBER AREA, THE BOLT IS LOCKED TO THE REAR AND THE EJECTION PORT COVER IS OPEN, AUDIBLE POP OR REDUCED RECOIL

BONUS: DAN DAILY, SMEDLEY BUTLER