MCRP 3-02B

Marine Corps Martial Arts

U.S. Marine Corps

18 February 1999

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E R R A T U M

to

MCRP 3-02B

CLOSE COMBAT

1. For administrative purposes and to reflect the new Marine Corps Martial Arts Program the long title has been reidentified. Change the long title "Close Combat" to read "Marine Corps Martial Arts" and change "close combat" to read "Marine Corps martial arts" wherever it appears in the text.

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

18 February 1999

FOREWORD

1. PURPOSE

Today's Marines operate within a continuum of force where conflict may change from low intensity to high intensity over a matter of hours. Marines are also engaged in many military operations other than war, such as peacekeeping missions or noncombatant evacuation operations, where deadly force may not be authorized. During noncombative engagements, Marines must determine if a situation warrants applying deadly force. Sometimes Marines must decide in a matter of seconds because their lives or the lives of others depend on their actions. To make the right decision, Marines must understand both the lethal and nonlethal close combat techniques needed to handle the situation responsibly without escalating the violence unnecessarily. Marine Corps Reference Publication (MCRP) 3-02B, *Close Combat*, provides the tactics, techniques, and procedures of Marine Corps close combat. It also provides the doctrinal basis for the Marine Corps Close Combat Training Program (MCCCTP).

2. SCOPE

This publication guides individual Marines, unit leaders, and close combat instructors in the proper tactics, techniques, and procedures for close combat. MCRP 3-02B is not intended to replace supervision by appropriate unit leaders and close combat instruction by qualified instructors. Its role is to ensure standardization and execution of tactics, techniques, and procedures throughout the Marine Corps.

3. SUPERSESSION

MCRP 3-02B supersedes Fleet Marine Force Manual (FMFM) 0-7, *Close Combat*, dated 9 July 1993. There are significant differences between the two publications. MCRP 3-02B should be reviewed in its entirety.

4. WARNING

Techniques described in this publication can cause serious injury or death. Practical application in the training of these techniques will be conducted in strict accordance with approved Entry Level Close Combat, Close Combat Instructor (CCI), and Close Combat Instructor Trainer (CCIT) lesson plans. Where serious danger exists, the reader is alerted by the following:

WARNING

5. CERTIFICATION

Reviewed and approved this date.

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

J. E. RHODES
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Combat Development Command

DISTRIBUTION: 144 000066 00

OVERVIEW OF CLOSE COMBAT

1. Purpose of Close Combat

Close combat is the physical confrontation between two or more opponents. It involves armed and unarmed and lethal and nonlethal fighting techniques that range from enforced compliance to deadly force. The purpose of close combat is to execute armed and unarmed techniques to produce both lethal and nonlethal results. Unarmed techniques include hand-to-hand combat and defense against hand-held weapons. Armed techniques include techniques applied with a rifle, bayonet, knife, baton, or any weapon of opportunity.

2. Continuum of Force

Marines will find themselves in both combative and noncombative situations. The threat level in these situations can rise and fall several times based on the actions of both Marines and the people involved. The escalation of force stops when one person complies with the demands imposed by another person. This range of actions is known as a continuum of force. Continuum of force is the concept that there is a wide range of possible actions, ranging from voice commands to application of deadly force, that may be used to gain and maintain control of a potentially dangerous situation (MCO 5500.6_, *Arming of Security and Law Enforcement [LE] Personnel and the Use of Force*). Continuum of force consists of five levels that correspond to the behavior of the people involved and the actions Marines use to handle the situation (see the table below). Close combat techniques are executed in levels three, four, and five.

Level One: Compliant (Cooperative)

The subject complies with verbal commands. Close combat techniques do not apply.

Level Two: Resistant (Passive)

The subject resists verbal commands but complies immediately to any contact controls. Close combat techniques do not apply.

Continuum of Force		
Level	**Description**	**Actions**
1	Compliant (Cooperative)	Verbal commands
2	Resistant (Passive)	Contact controls
3	Resistant (Active)	Compliance techniques
4	Assaultive (Bodily Harm)	Defensive tactics
5	Assaultive (Serious Bodily Harm/ Death)	Deadly force
Note: Shading indicates levels in which Marines use close combat techniques.		

Level Three: Resistant (Active)

The subject initially demonstrates physical resistance. Marines use compliance techniques to control the situation. Level three incorporates close combat techniques to physically force a subject to comply. Techniques include—

- Come-along holds.
- Soft-handed stunning blows.
- Pain compliance through joint manipulation and the use of pressure points.

Level Four: Assaultive (Bodily Harm)

The subject may physically attack Marines, but he does not use a weapon. Marines use defensive tactics to neutralize the threat. Defensive tactics include the following close combat techniques:

- Blocks.
- Strikes.
- Kicks.
- Enhanced pain compliance procedures.
- Nightstick blocks and blows.

Level Five: Assaultive (Serious Bodily Harm/Death)

The subject usually has a weapon and will either kill or seriously injure someone if he is not stopped immediately and brought under control. Typically, to control the subject, Marines apply deadly force through the use of a firearm, but they may also use armed and unarmed close combat techniques.

3. Marine Corps Tactical Concepts

Close combat techniques support the following key Marine Corps tactical concepts. The concepts are not standalone ideas but are to be combined to achieve an effect that is greater than their separate sum.

Achieving a Decision

Achieving a decision is important in close combat. An indecisive fight wastes energy and possibly Marines' lives. Whether the intent is to control an opponent through restraint or defend themselves in war, Marines must have a clear purpose before engaging in close combat and act decisively once engaged.

Gaining an Advantage

A basic principle of martial arts is to use the opponent's strength and momentum against him to gain more leverage than one's own muscles alone can generate, thereby gaining an advantage. In close combat, Marines must exploit every advantage over an opponent to ensure a successful outcome. This can include employing various weapons and close combat techniques that will present a dilemma to an opponent. Achieving surprise can also greatly increase leverage. Marines try to achieve surprise through deception, stealth, and ambiguity.

Speed

Marines use speed to gain the initiative and advantage over the enemy. In close combat, the speed and violence of the attack against an opponent provides Marines with a distinct advantage. Marines must know and understand the basics of close combat so they can act instinctively with speed to execute close combat techniques.

Adapting

Close combat can be characterized by friction, uncertainty, disorder, and rapid change. Each situation is a unique combination of shifting factors that cannot be controlled with precision or certainty. For example, a crowd control mission may call for Marines to employ various techniques ranging from nonlethal restraint to more forceful applications. Marines who adapt quickly will have a significant advantage.

Exploiting Success

Typically, an enemy will not normally surrender simply because he was placed at a disadvantage. Marines cannot be satisfied with gaining an advantage in a close combat situation. They must exploit any advantage aggressively and ruthlessly until an opportunity arises to completely dominate the opponent. Marines must exploit success by using every advantage that can be gained.

Close Combat

Table of Contents

Page

Overview of Close Combat

Chapter 1. Fundamentals of Close Combat

1. Ranges of Close Combat 1-1
2. Weapons of the Body 1-2
3. Target Areas of the Body 1-3
4. Pressure Points of the Body 1-4
5. Basic Warrior Stance 1-6
6. Angles of Approach and Movement 1-7
7. Balance and Off-Balancing 1-8
8. Falls 1-9

Chapter 2. Lethal and Nonlethal Weapons Techniques

1. Bayonet Techniques 2-1
2. Nonlethal Rifle and Shotgun Retention Techniques 2-6
3. Nonlethal Handgun Retention Techniques 2-8
4. Firearm Disarmament Techniques 2-12

Chapter 3. Hand-Held Weapons

1. Fundamentals of Knife Fighting 3-1
2. Knife Fighting Techniques 3-3
3. Weapons of Opportunity 3-6
4. Fundamentals of Combative Stick 3-6
5. Combative Stick Techniques 3-7
6. Blocking Techniques 3-9
7. Unarmed Against Hand-Held Weapons 3-11
8. Counters to Hand-Held Weapon Attacks 3-13

Chapter 4. Strikes

1. Principles of Punches 4-1
2. Punches 4-2
3. Strikes with the Upper Body 4-4
4. Strikes with the Lower Body 4-10
5. Counters to Strikes 4-12

Page

Chapter 5. Throws

1. Turning Throw 5-1
2. Hip Throw 5-2
3. Leg Sweep 5-3

Chapter 6. Chokes and Holds

1. Types of Chokes 6-1
2. Chokes 6-1
3. Counters to Chokes and Holds 6-5

Chapter 7. Ground Fighting

1. Offensive Ground Fighting 7-1
2. Defensive Ground Fighting 7-3
3. Ground Fighting Chokes 7-5

Chapter 8. Nonlethal Techniques

1. Unarmed Restraints and Manipulation 8-1
2. Nonlethal Baton 8-9

Appendices

A. Pugil Stick Training A-1
B. Safety Precautions During Training B-1

CHAPTER 1

FUNDAMENTALS OF CLOSE COMBAT

This chapter describes all techniques for a right-handed person. However, all techniques can be executed from either side.

The Marine is depicted in camouflage utilities. The opponent is depicted without camouflage.

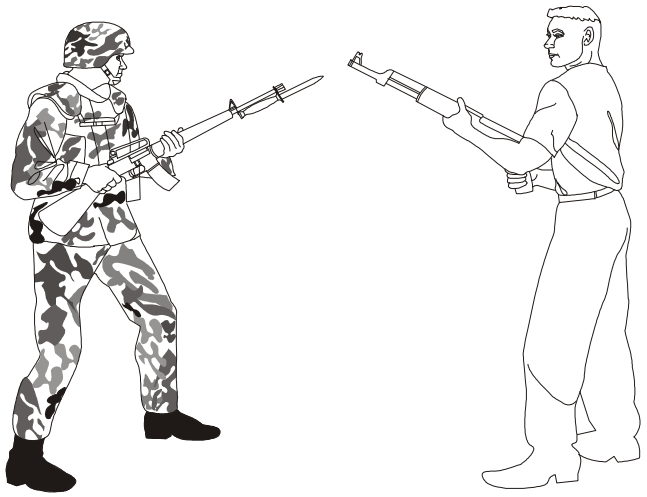
The fundamentals of close combat include ranges, weapons of the body, target areas of the body, and pressure points of the body. These fundamentals form the basis for all close combat techniques. They provide Marines with a common framework regardless of the type of confrontation or the techniques used. If Marines apply these fundamentals properly in a close combat situation, they may save their lives or the lives of fellow Marines.

1. Ranges of Close Combat

Close combat engagements occur within three ranges: long range, midrange, and close range. During any engagement, these ranges may blur together or may rapidly transition from one to another until either the opponent is defeated or the conflict is resolved.

Long Range

During long range engagements, combatants engage each other with rifles, bayonets, sticks, or entrenching tools. See figure below.



Midrange

During midrange engagements, combatants engage each other with knives, punches, or kicks.

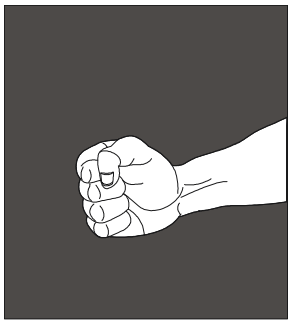
Close Range

During close range engagements, combatants grab each other. Close range engagements also involve elbow strikes, knee strikes, and grappling.

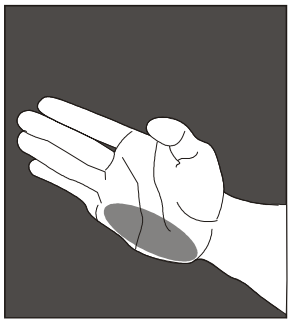
2. Weapons of the Body

Hands and Arms

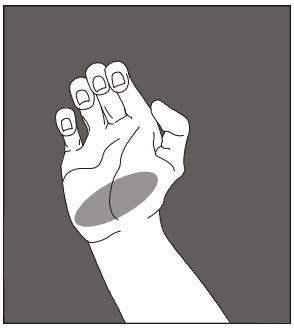
The hands, forearms, and elbows are the arm's individual weapons. The hands consist of several areas that can be used as weapons: fists, edges of hands, palms, and fingers.



Fists. To minimize injury to the fists, Marines use their fists as weapons to target soft tissue areas such as the throat. The fists' striking surfaces are the first two knuckles of the hands or the meaty portions of the hands below the little fingers.



Edge of Hand. Marines use the edge of the hand (knife edge) as a weapon. Marines use the edge of the hand to strike soft tissue areas.



Palms. Because of the palm's padding, Marines use the heels of the palms to strike, parry, and/or block.

Fingers. Marines use the fingers to gouge, rip, and tear soft tissue areas (e.g., eyes, throat, groin).

Forearms. Marines use the forearms as a defensive tool to deflect or block attacks. Forearms can also be used as striking weapons to damage or break an opponent's joints and limbs. Marines sustain less self-injury when strikes are conducted

with the forearms than when strikes are conducted with fists and fingers.

Elbows. Marines use the elbows as striking weapons. Because of the short distance needed to generate power, elbows are excellent weapons for striking during the close range of close combat.

Legs

The legs are more powerful than any other weapon of the body, and they are less prone to injury when striking. The feet are protected by boots and are the preferred choice for striking.

Feet. Marines use the balls of the feet, the insteps, and the toes to kick an opponent. Marines use the cutting edge of the heels and the heels to stomp on an opponent. Marines must be wearing boots when striking with the toes.

Knees. Like elbows, knees are excellent weapons in the close range of close combat. Knee strikes are most effective while fighting close to an opponent where kicks are impractical. The opponent's groin area is an ideal target for the knee strike if he is standing upright. Knee strikes can deliver a devastating secondary attack to an opponent's face following an initial attack that caused him to bend at the waist.

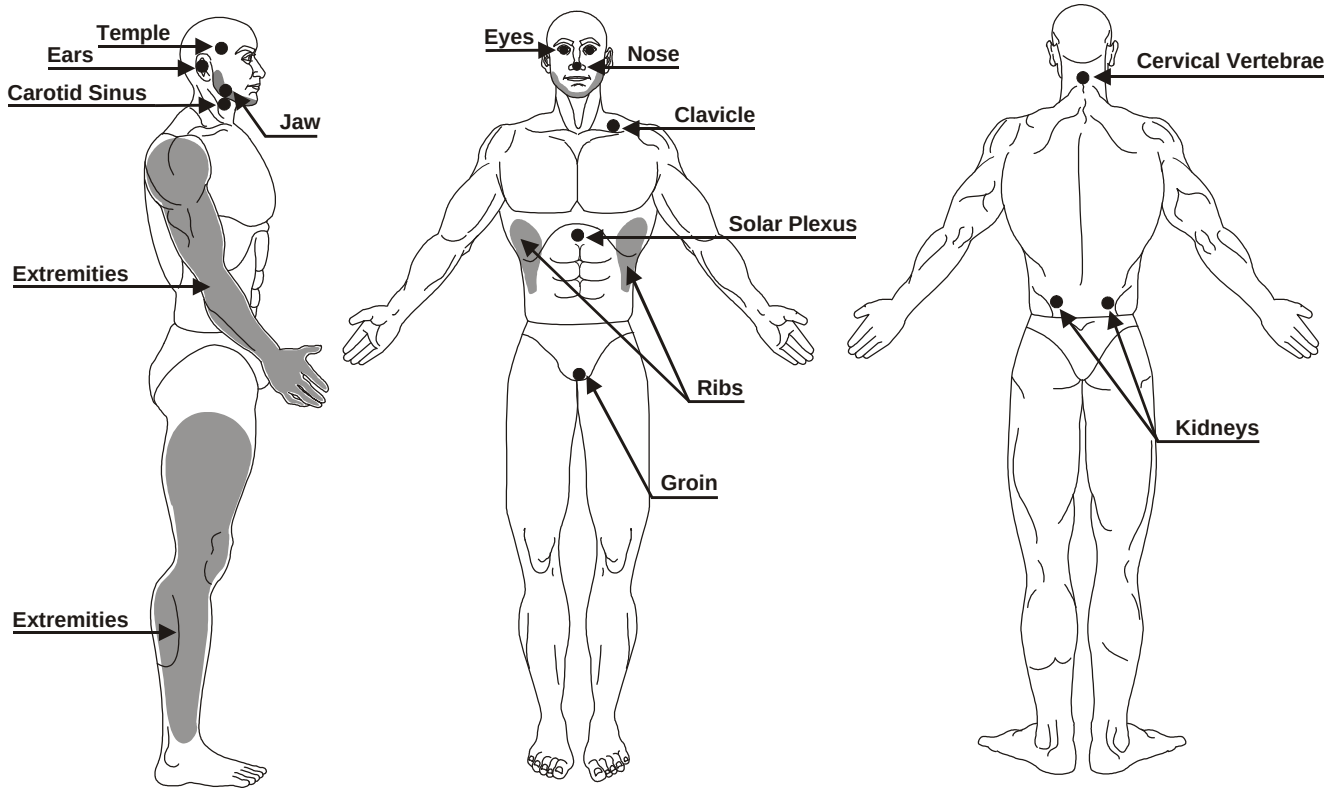
3. Target Areas of the Body

During close combat, Marines strive to attack the accessible target areas of an opponent's body. The readily accessible areas will vary with each situation and throughout the engagement. The target areas are divided into five major groups: head, neck, torso, groin, and extremities. The figure below illustrates target areas of the body.

Head

The vulnerable regions of the head are the eyes, temple, nose, ears, and jaw. Massive damage to the head kills an opponent.

Eyes. The eyes are excellent targets because they are soft tissue areas that are not protected by bone or muscle. Attacks to this area may cause the opponent to protect the area with his hands, allowing Marines to execute a secondary attack to other



target areas while the opponent uses his hands to protect his eyes.

Temple. The temple is one of the most fragile areas of the head. Powerful strikes to the opponent's temple cause permanent damage and death.

Nose. The nose is very sensitive and easily broken. An attack to this area causes involuntary watering and closing of the opponent's eyes, rendering him vulnerable to secondary attacks. However, through training, individuals can condition themselves to withstand attacks to the nose. Therefore, any attack to the nose must be powerfully delivered.

Ears. Attacks to the ears may cause the eardrum to rupture. But this may not stop or even distract an opponent unless Marines powerfully deliver the strike.

Jaw. The jaw region, when struck forcefully, renders the opponent unconscious. Strikes to the jaw cause painful injuries to the teeth and surrounding tissues (e.g., lips, tongue), but the risk of self-injury is great unless Marines deliver strikes with a hard object such as a helmet, rifle butt, or boot heel.

Neck

The front of the neck, or throat area, is a soft tissue area that is not covered by natural protection. Damage to this region causes the opponent's trachea to swell, closing his airway, which can lead to death.

Carotid Sinus. The carotid sinus is located on both sides of the neck just below the jaw. Strikes to the carotid sinus restrict blood flow to the brain, causing loss of consciousness or death.

Cervical Vertebrae. The cervical vertebrae on the back of the neck, from the base of the skull to the top of the shoulders, contains the spinal cord, which is the nervous system's link to the brain. The weight of the head and the lack of large muscle mass allow damage to the cervical vertebrae and spinal cord. Excessive damage to this area causes pain, paralysis, or death.

Torso

Clavicle. The opponent's clavicle (or collar bone) can be easily fractured, causing immobilization of the arm.

Solar Plexus. Attacks to the opponent's solar plexus or center of the chest can knock the breath out of him and immobilize him.

Ribs. Damage to the opponent's ribs immobilizes him. It may also cause internal trauma.

Kidneys. Powerful attacks to the opponent's kidneys cause immobilization, permanent damage, or death.

Groin

The groin area is another soft tissue area not covered by natural protection. Any damage to this area causes the opponent to involuntarily protect his injured area, usually with his hands or legs. In male opponents, the scrotum is the main target since even a near miss causes severe pain, contraction of the lower abdominal muscles, deterioration of his stance, and possible internal trauma.

Extremities

Rarely will an attack to the opponent's extremities (arms and legs) cause death, but they are important target areas in close combat. Damage to an opponent's joints causes immobilization.

4. Pressure Points of the Body

There are nerves in the human body that, when pressure is applied or when they are struck, allow Marines to control a subject through pain compliance. Marines use pressure points to control an opponent when deadly force is not authorized. They also use pressure points to soften or distract an opponent so a lethal or nonlethal technique can be employed. The figure on page 1-5 illustrates

the body's pressure points. Marines execute attacks to pressure points by—

- Rapidly kicking or striking pressure points.
- Slowly applying steady pressure to pressure points.

Infraorbital Nerve

The infraorbital nerve is just below the nose. Marines apply pressure to this nerve with an index finger to control the opponent.

Mastoid Process

The mastoid process is behind the base of the ear and beneath the edge of the jaw. Marines apply inward and upward pressure to this pressure point with the fingers to distract and control the opponent.

Jugular Notch

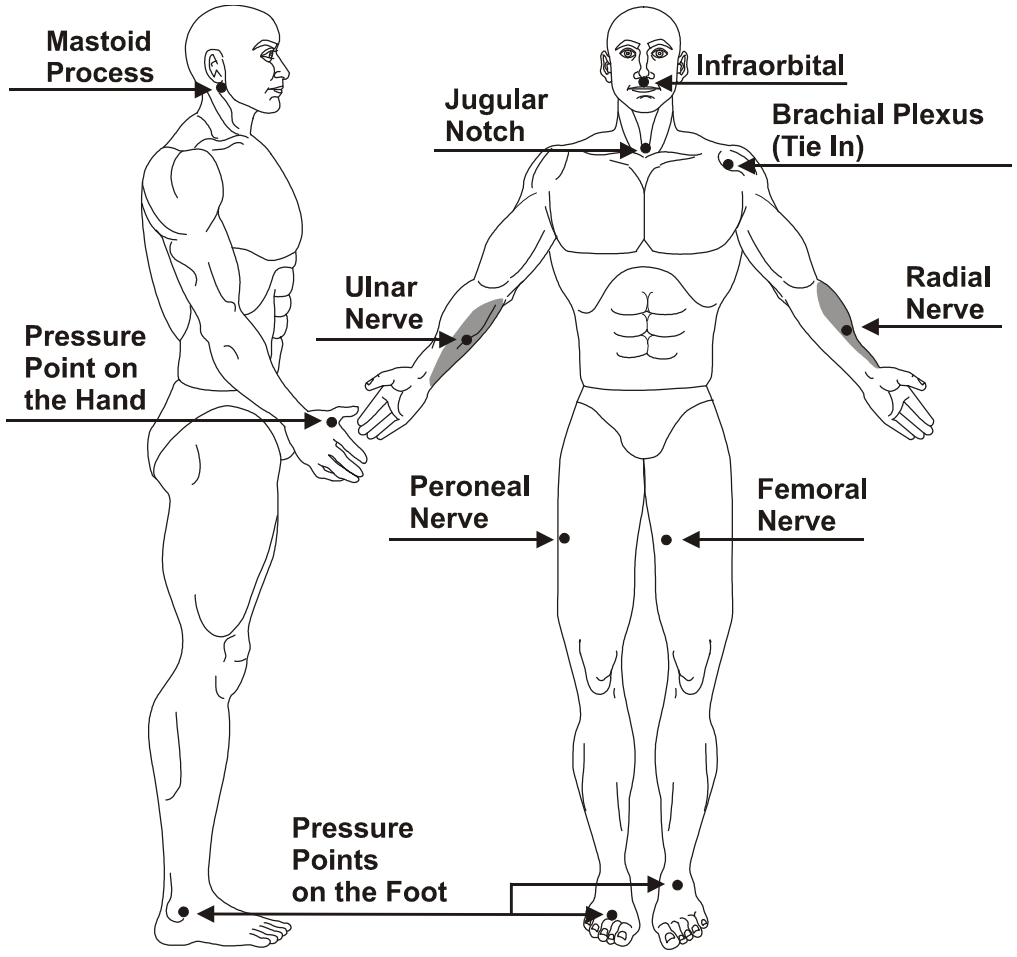
The jugular notch is at the base of the neck in the notch formed at the center of the clavicle. Marines apply pressure in a quick, stabbing motion with the index finger. Strikes to the jugular notch cause serious damage.

Brachial Plexus (Tie In)

The brachial plexus (tie in) is on the front of the shoulder at the joint. Strikes and pressure applied with the hand are effective on this nerve.

Radial Nerves

Radial nerves are on the inside of the forearms along the radius bones. Strikes and pressure applied with the hand to the radial nerve serve as a softening technique.



Ulnar Nerve

Ulnar nerves are on the outside of the forearms along the ulnar bones. Strikes and pressure applied with the hand to the ulnar nerve serve as a softening technique.

Pressure Point on the Hand

The hands contain a pressure point on the webbing between the thumbs and index fingers where the two bones of the fingers meet.

To force an opponent to soften or release his grip, Marines apply pressure with their index fingers to this pressure point or strike this pressure point with their fists.

Femoral Nerves

Femoral nerves are on the inside of the thighs along the femur bones. Strikes to the femoral nerve serve as a softening technique.

Peroneal Nerves

Peroneal nerves are on the outside of the thighs along the femur bones. Strikes to the peroneal nerve serve as a softening technique.

Pressure Points on the Feet

There are pressure points on the feet that, when pressure is applied or when they are struck, serve to soften or distract the opponent. Marines apply pressure with the toe, edge, or heel of their boots to the following points:

- The notch below the ball of the ankle.
- The top center of the foot, above the toes.
- The top of the foot where the leg and foot meet.

5. Basic Warrior Stance

Achieving a solid stance is critical to stability and movement throughout any close combat confrontation. The basic warrior stance provides the foundation for stability and movement that is needed to execute close combat techniques. To execute the basic warrior stance, Marines put their feet apart, hands up, elbows in, and chin down.

Feet Apart

Place feet shoulder-width apart.

Keep the head forward and eyes on the opponent, take a half step forward with the left foot, and pivot on the heels so the hips and shoulders are at approximately a 45-degree angle to the right.

Distribute body weight evenly on both legs. Bend the knees slightly.

Hands Up

Curl the fingers naturally into the palm of the hand. Position the thumb across the index and middle fingers. Do not clench the fists. Clenching the fists increases muscular tension in the forearms and decreases speed and reaction time.

Bring the hands up to the face at chin level, with the palms facing each other. Hold the fists up high enough to protect the head, but not so high that they block the field of vision. Ensure continuous eye contact with the opponent.

Elbows In

Tuck the elbows in close to protect the body.

Chin Down

Tuck the chin down to take advantage of the natural protection provided by the shoulders.

6. Angles of Approach and Movement

Marines use movement to control a confrontation and to retain a tactical advantage. Movement increases power and maximizes momentum. By moving around the opponent, Marines gain access to different target areas of the opponent's body. Movement allows Marines to use different weapons of the body and different close combat techniques to attack specific target areas.

Angles of Approach

Marines move anywhere within a 360-degree circle around the opponent to gain a tactical advantage. This circle provides access to different target areas of the opponent's body.

When facing an opponent, Marines move in a 45-degree angle to either side of the opponent. Moving at a 45-degree angle avoids an opponent's strike and puts Marines in the best position to attack the opponent. Marines should avoid being directly in front of an opponent during a confrontation. If a Marine is directly in front of an opponent, the opponent can rely on his forward momentum and linear power to seize the tactical advantage.

Movement

Marines must know how to move in all directions while maintaining the basic warrior stance. During any movement, the legs or feet should not be crossed. Once a movement is completed, the basic warrior stance should be resumed. Maintaining the basic warrior stance protects Marines and puts them in the proper position to launch an attack against an opponent.

Note: Before body movement begins, Marines turn their heads quickly to the new direction. The faster the head turns, the faster the body moves, and the quicker Marines attain visual contact with the opponent.

Forward to the Left. To move forward to the left from the basic warrior stance, Marines—

- Move the left foot forward at a 45-degree angle from the body (approximately 12 to 15 inches), keeping the toe pointed toward the opponent.
- Bring the right foot behind the left foot as soon as the left foot is in place. This returns Marines to the basic warrior stance.

Forward to the Right. To move forward to the right from the basic warrior stance, Marines—

- Move the right foot forward at a 45-degree angle from the body (approximately 12 to 15 inches).
- Bring the left foot, toe pointing toward the opponent, in front of the right foot as soon as the right foot is in place. This returns Marines to the basic warrior stance.

Backward to the Left. To move backward to the left from the basic warrior stance, Marines execute the forward movement in reverse. Marines—

- Move the left foot backward at a 45-degree angle from the body (approximately 12 to 15 inches), keeping the toe pointed toward the opponent.
- Bring the right foot behind the left foot as soon as the left foot is in place. This returns Marines to the basic warrior stance.

Backward to the Right. To move backward to the right from the basic warrior stance, Marines execute the forward movement in reverse. Marines—

- Move the right foot backward at a 45-degree angle from the body (approximately 12 to 15 inches).
- Bring the left foot, toe pointing toward the opponent, in front of the right foot as soon as the right foot is in place. This returns Marines to the basic warrior stance.

7. Balance and Off-Balancing

Balance

In any close combat situation, Marines must strive to maintain balance. The last place to be in a close combat situation is on the ground. Marines must maintain a strong base and a low center of balance, their feet must be a shoulder-width apart, and they must stay on their toes to enable quick movement.

Off-balancing

Marines use off-balancing techniques to control an opponent. These techniques are used to throw an opponent to the ground while Marines remain standing, or they are used to put Marines in a position for an offensive attack.

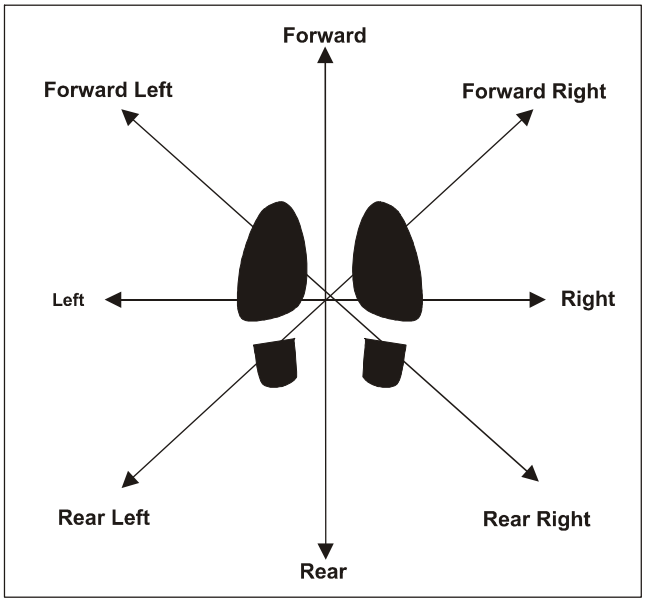
Off-balancing techniques use the opponent's momentum to move or throw him. For example, if the opponent is charging a Marine, the Marine pulls the opponent to drive him to the ground. Likewise, if the opponent is pulling a Marine, the Marine pushes the opponent to drive him to the ground.

Off-balancing techniques also rely on the power generated by the opponent. For example, during combat a Marine may be tired or outnumbered. Depending on the generated energy and momentum of the opponent, the Marine employs off-balancing techniques with very little effort and still provides effective results.

Because off-balancing techniques rely on the momentum and power generated by the opponent, these techniques are particularly effective for Marines who may be outsized by their opponent or lack their opponent's strength.

Angles of Off-balancing

There are eight angles or directions in which an opponent can be off-balanced: forward, rear, right, left, forward right, forward left, rear right, and rear left.



Note: The angles correspond to the Marine's perspective, not the opponent's. Forward, rear, right, and left are straight angles. Forward right, forward left, rear right, and rear left are considered quadrants that are at a 45-degree angle in either direction to the front or rear.

Off-balancing Techniques

Marines off-balance an opponent by pushing, pulling, or bumping the opponent with their hands, arms, or bodies.

To pull, Marines grab an opponent with their hands and drive him forcefully to one of the rear quadrants or to the right or left.

To push, Marines grab the opponent with their hands and drive him forcefully into one of the front quadrants or to the right or left.

Marines execute bumping in the same manner as pushing, but use their shoulders, hips, and legs instead of their hands to off-balance the opponent.

8. Falls

Marines may lose their balance or be thrown to the ground during encounters with an opponent. Marines use falling techniques to absorb the impact of a fall and to quickly return to their feet following an opponent's attack.

Whether falling or being thrown by an opponent, Marines strive to reduce the force of the impact, to prevent serious personal injury, and to increase the chances of survival. Falling techniques use the body's large muscles (back, thighs, buttocks) to protect vital organs and bones from injury and immobilization.

Front Fall

Marines execute a front fall to break a fall on the front. To execute the front fall, Marines—

Bend the elbows and place the palms facing out in a position to spread and absorb the impact of the fall.

Fall forward, breaking the fall with the forearms and palms. The forearms and hands, down to the fingertips, should strike the ground simultaneously.

Offer resistance with the forearms and hands to keep the head raised off the ground.

Side Fall

Marines execute a side fall to break a fall on the side. To execute the side fall, Marines—

Bring the right arm across the body so the hand is next to the left shoulder with the palm facing inboard.

Fall to the side, breaking the fall with the right arm by slapping the ground and making contact from the shoulder or forearm down to the hand. At the same time, tuck the chin and keep the head

raised off the ground. The chin should be tucked to the chest at all times to prevent whiplash.

Stretch the right leg out to make contact with the ground and to distribute and absorb the impact. Bend the left leg, allowing the foot to make contact with the ground.

Back Fall

Marines execute a back fall to break the fall when being thrown or falling backward. To execute the back fall, Marines—

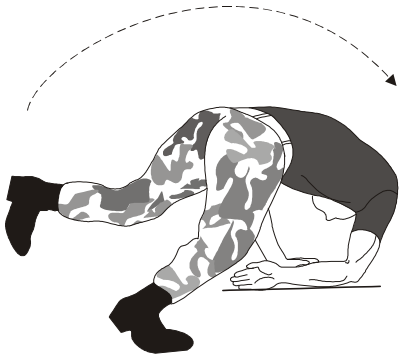
Cross the hands in front of the chest and tuck the chin.

Fall backward and slap the ground with the forearms and hands to absorb the impact of the fall and keep the head off the ground.

Forward Shoulder Roll

Marines use the forward shoulder roll to break a fall from an opponent's attack and to use the momentum of the fall to get back on their feet quickly. Ideally, Marines execute the forward shoulder roll to a standing position so they can continue fighting. To execute the forward shoulder roll, Marines—

Contact the ground with the back of the right forearm and upper arm. Tuck the chin into the chest.



Roll onto the right shoulder, rolling diagonally across the back to land on the left hip.

Slap the ground with the left arm, absorbing the impact from the shoulder to the hand, palm down.

Keep the left leg straight to absorb as much of the impact as possible. The right leg is bent and the foot hits flat on the ground.

Bend the left leg upon impact to push off with the left knee and leg to a squatting and then a standing position. Forward momentum should carry the Marine to a standing position.

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CHAPTER 2

LETHAL AND NONLETHAL WEAPONS TECHNIQUES

This chapter describes all techniques for a right-handed person. However, all techniques can be executed from either side.

In drawings, the Marine is depicted in woodland camouflage utilities; the opponent is depicted without camouflage. In photographs, the Marine is depicted in woodland camouflage utilities; the opponent is depicted in desert camouflage utilities.

1. Bayonet Techniques

WARNING

During training, Marines must have bayonets sheathed. Marines use bayonet dummies to practice bayonet techniques. When practicing offensive and defensive bayonet techniques student-on-student, Marines use pugil sticks.

All Marines armed with a rifle carry a bayonet. The bayonet is an effective weapon if Marines are properly trained in offensive and defensive bayonet techniques. An offensive attack, such as a thrust, is a devastating attack that can quickly end a fight. Defensive techniques, such as the block and parry, can deter the opponent's attack and allow Marines to regain the initiative. Through proper training, Marines develop the courage and confidence required to effectively use a bayonet to protect themselves and destroy the enemy. In situations where friendly and enemy troops are closely mingled and rifle fire and grenades are impractical, the bayonet becomes the weapon of choice.

Holding the Rifle

To execute bayonet techniques, Marines hold the rifle in a modified basic warrior stance. All movement begins and ends with the basic warrior stance. To hold the rifle, Marines—

Use an overhanded grasp to grab the small of the rifle's stock. Use an underhanded grasp to grab the handguards of the rifle.

Lock the buttstock of the rifle against the hip with the right forearm.

Orient the blade end of the rifle toward the opponent.

Offensive Bayonet Techniques

Straight Thrust. Marines use the straight thrust to disable or kill an opponent. It is the most deadly offensive technique because it causes the most trauma to an opponent. Target areas are the opponent's throat, groin, or face. The opponent's chest and stomach are also excellent target areas if not

protected by body armor or combat equipment. To execute the straight thrust, Marines—

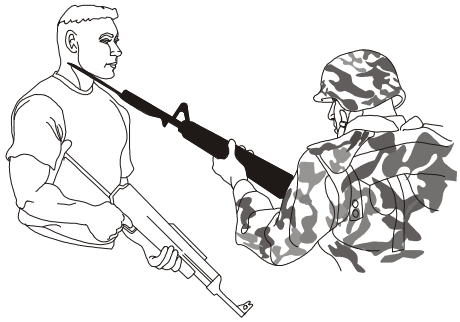
Lift the left leg and lunge forward off the ball of the right foot while thrusting the blade end of the weapon forward, directly toward the opponent.

Retract the weapon and return to the basic warrior stance.

Slash. Marines use the slash to kill an opponent or to create an opening in his defense. The target area is the opponent's neck. To execute the slash, Marines—

Extend the left hand back toward the left shoulder.

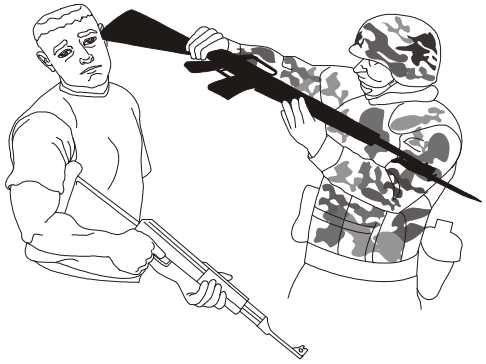
Thrust the left hand forward and swing it to the right, bring the right hand back toward the hip, and turn the cutting edge of the blade toward the opponent's neck. The movement is a slashing motion so the blade cuts across the opponent's neck.



Horizontal Buttstroke. Marines use the horizontal buttstroke to weaken an opponent's defenses, to cause serious injury, or to set him up for a killing blow. Target areas are the opponent's head, neck, and legs. To execute the horizontal buttstroke, Marines—

Step forward with the right foot and drive the right hand forward. Rotate the hips and shoulders into the strike. Move the left hand back toward the left shoulder.

Strike the opponent with the butt of the weapon.



Vertical Buttstroke. Marines use the vertical buttstroke to weaken an opponent's defenses, to cause serious injury, or to set him up for a killing

blow. Target areas are the opponent's groin and face. To execute the vertical buttstroke, Marines—

Step forward with the right foot and drive the right hand straight up.

Pull the left hand back over the left shoulder.

Strike the opponent with the butt of the weapon.

Smash. Marines use the smash as a follow-up technique to the horizontal or vertical buttstroke, particularly if they missed the target. The target area is the opponent's head. To execute the smash following a buttstroke, Marines—

Step forward with the right foot and place the blade end of the weapon over the left shoulder and elevate the right elbow above the shoulders.

Drive the arms straight forward, striking the opponent with the butt of the weapon.

Defensive Bayonet Techniques

Parry. Marines use a parry as a defensive technique to redirect or deflect an attack. A parry is a slight redirection of a linear attack by an opponent; e.g., a straight thrust or a smash. To execute the parry, Marines—

Use the bayonet end of the rifle to redirect the barrel or bayonet of the opponent's weapon.

Lock the weapon against the hip with the right forearm.

Rotate to the right or left, moving the bayonet end of the rifle to parry the opponent's attack. Rotation is generated from the hips.

Redirect or guide the opponent's weapon away from the body by exerting pressure against the opponent's weapon.

High Block. Marines execute a high block against a vertical attack coming from high to low. To execute the high block, Marines—

Thrust the arms up forcefully at approximately a 45-degree angle from the body. The weapon should be over the top of the head and parallel to the ground. The elbows are bent, but there is enough muscular tension in the arms to absorb the impact and deter the attack.

Low Block. Marines execute the low block

against a vertical attack coming from low to high. To execute the low block, Marines—

Thrust the arms down forcefully at approximately a 45-degree angle from the body. The weapon

should be at or below the waist and parallel to the ground. The elbows are bent, but there is enough muscular tension in the arms to absorb the impact and deter the attack.

Left and Right Block. Marines execute a left or right block against a horizontal buttstroke or a slash. To execute the left or right block, Marines—

Thrust the arms forcefully to the right or left, holding the rifle vertically in the direction of the attack. The elbows are bent, but there is enough muscular tension in the arms to absorb the impact and deter the attack.

Counter Action Following the Block. After deflecting an opponent's attack with a block, Marines counter with a slash or a horizontal buttstroke to regain the initiative. However, the objective in any bayonet fight is to thrust forward with the blade end of the weapon to immediately end the fight.

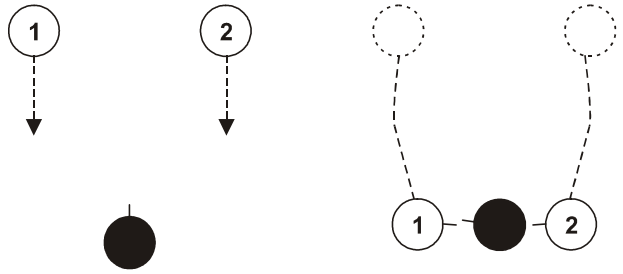
Group Strategy

On occasion, Marines may engage an opponent as a member of a group or numerous opponents by

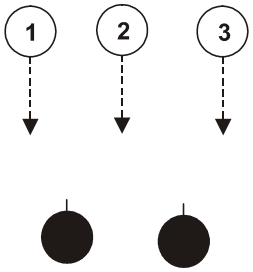
one's self or as a member of a group. By combining bayonet fighting movements and simple strategies, Marines can effectively overcome their opponent or opponents.

Offensive Strategy: Two Against One. If two bayonet fighters engage one opponent, the fighters advance together.

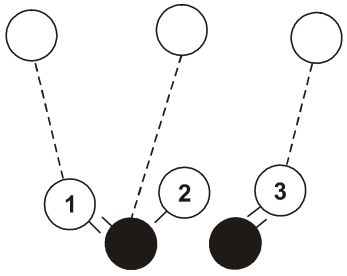
Fighter 1 engages the opponent while fighter 2 swiftly and aggressively attacks the opponent's exposed flank and destroys the opponent.



Offensive Strategy: Three Against Two. If three bayonet fighters engage two opponents, the fighters advance together keeping their opponents to the inside.



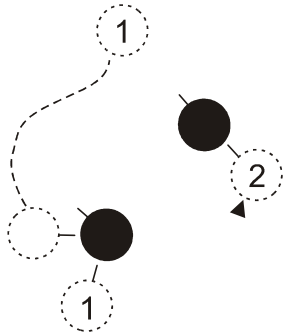
Fighters 1 and 3 engage opponents. Fighter 2 attacks the opponent's exposed flank engaged by fighter 1 and destroys the opponent.



Fighters 1 and 2 turn and attack the exposed flank of the opponent engaged by fighter 3 and destroy the opponent.

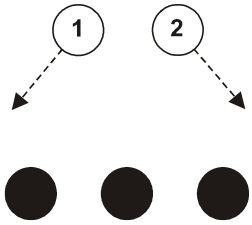
Defensive Strategy: One Against Two. If a fighter is attacked by two opponents, the fighter immediately positions himself at the flank of the nearest opponent and keeps that opponent between himself and the other opponent.

Using the first opponent's body as a shield against the second opponent, the fighter destroys the first opponent quickly before the second opponent moves to assist.

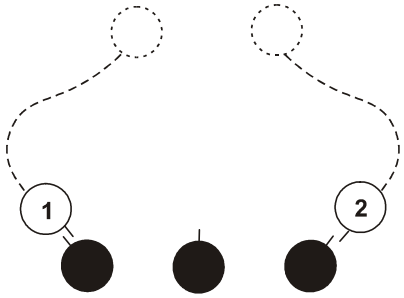


Then, the fighter engages and destroys the second opponent.

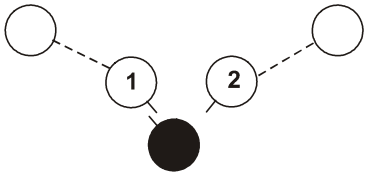
Defensive Strategy: Two Against Three. If two fighters are attacked by three opponents, the fighters immediately move to the opponent's flanks.



Fighters 1 and 2 quickly attack and destroy their opponents before the third opponent closes in.



Fighter 1 engages the third opponent while fighter 2 attacks the opponent's exposed flank and destroys the opponent.



2. Nonlethal Rifle and Shotgun Retention Techniques

Most Marines are armed with the M16A2 service rifle. Marines are taught to keep their weapon with them at all times. Marines must be constantly alert to their surroundings and the people moving in and around their environment. Marines may be confronted by an individual who tries to take their weapons. If this happens, Marines should not struggle with the individual. To retain positive control of their weapons, Marines must understand and apply weapons retention techniques, otherwise known as armed manipulation. The following techniques can be used with either the rifle or the shotgun.

Blocking Technique

To execute a blocking technique, Marines—

Stand in a defensive posture.

Use the weapon to block the opponent by thrusting it out firmly, with the elbows bent. Do not try to hit the opponent with the rifle. The rifle is used as a barrier.

Technique if Opponent Grabs Weapon Underhanded

Usually an opponent will try to grab the weapon or block it as an instinctive action. If the opponent uses an underhand grab to seize the handguards of the weapon, Marines—

Trap the opponent's closest finger(s) above the knuckle with the thumb so he cannot release his grip.

Apply bone pressure on the opponent's finger to initiate pain compliance.

Rotate the barrel of the weapon up or down quickly while maintaining pressure on the opponent's hand. At the same time, quickly pivot to off-balance the opponent.

Technique if Opponent Grabs Weapon Overhanded

If the opponent uses an overhand grab to seize the weapon overhanded, Marines—

Trap the opponent's finger to hold his hand in place.

Rotate the barrel to place it across the opponent's forearm and apply downward pressure. This action is similar to an armbar.

Technique if the Opponent Grabs the Muzzle

If the opponent grabs the muzzle of the weapon, Marines—

Rotate the muzzle quickly in a circle motion. Slash downward with the muzzle to release the opponent's grip.

Butt Strikes

Strikes with the butt of the weapon control or ward off an attacker. During any of the retention techniques, Marines use the heel or cutting edge of the weapon to deliver butt strikes to the

inside or the outside of the opponent's thigh. The inside butt strike targets the femoral nerve as illustrated in the photo to the left.

The outside butt strike targets the peroneal nerve as illustrated in the photo to the left. Strikes can be made to the outside or inside of the thighs. If a strike to one side of the thigh misses, Marines follow back through with the butt of the weapon on the other side of the thigh.

Off-balancing Techniques

Marines apply off-balancing techniques to throw an opponent to the ground and retain possession of the weapon.

If the opponent grabs the weapon and pushes, Marines should not push on the weapon. They should—

Move with the momentum and movement of the

opponent by pivoting in the direction of the movement by stepping back.

Throw the opponent to the ground with a quick jerking movement by lowering the muzzle and swinging the butt of the weapon.

If the opponent grabs the weapon and pulls, Marines—

Step on the opponent's foot and push forward to off-balance him and drive him to the ground.

Sweep the opponent's feet out from under him by hooking his leg with the leg and kicking backward.

3. Nonlethal Handgun Retention Techniques

Many Marines are armed with the M9 service pistol. Marines must keep their weapons in their possession at all times. Marines must be constantly alert to their surroundings and the people moving in and around the environment. Marines may be confronted by an individual who tries to take their weapons. To retain positive control of the weapon, Marines must understand and apply handgun retention techniques.

Blocking Technique

Marines perform the following blocking techniques if an opponent attempts to grab their pistol in the holster. Marines—

Place the body between the weapon and the opponent by immediately pivoting so the weapon is away from the opponent.

Step back and away from the opponent while placing the hand on the pistol grip.

Extend the left hand and block, deflect, or strike the opponent's arm.

Armbar Technique

Marines use the armbar technique when an opponent uses his right hand to grab their pistol in the holster. To execute the armbar technique, Marines—

Trap the opponent's right hand by grasping the opponent's wrist or hand with the right hand and applying pressure against the body.

Step back with the right foot and pivot sharply to the right to be next to the opponent. Always pivot in a direction that keeps the weapon away from the opponent.

Straighten the opponent's arm to apply an armbar. The arm should be straight across the torso.

Continue pivoting to the right while pulling back on the opponent's shoulder. This action may break the opponent's arm.

Place the left hand across the opponent's face and apply pressure back and down to take the oppo-

nent to the ground. Pressure applied beneath the nose or on the trachea is equally effective.

Wristlock Technique

Marines use the wristlock technique when an opponent grabs their pistol while it is in the holster with his right hand. To execute the wristlock technique, Marines—

Grasp the opponent's wrist or hand with the right hand and apply pressure against the body.

Step back and away from the opponent and pivot to the right so the weapon is away from the opponent. Always pivot in a direction that keeps the weapon away from the opponent.

Reach over the opponent's arm with the left hand and grab his hand, applying pressure against his arm with the left forearm. Execute a wristlock.

Incorporate the second hand into the wristlock and, stepping back with the left foot, pivot to the left.

Execute a two-handed wristlock by exerting downward pressure with the thumb and rotating his hand to the left.

Continue to pivot to off-balance the opponent and drive him to the ground.

Note: If the opponent grabs the pistol with his left hand, Marines execute the wristlock with one hand and step in toward the opponent, rather than

away from the opponent.

Softening Techniques

Handgun retention techniques use softening techniques applied to pressure points. Bone pressure

and strikes with the hands (i.e., hammer fist), knees, and feet are also effective softening techniques.

Pressure Points. Marines use pressure point techniques to get the opponent to loosen his grip. Marines use their finger tips to apply pressure to the webbing between the index finger and thumb, the jugular notch, and the brachial plexus tie in. The following figure illustrates pressure applied to the brachial plexus tie in.

Bone Pressure. Bone pressure is the application of pressure on a bone against a hard object to initiate pain compliance. To apply bone pressure, Marines use their hand to trap the opponent's hand on the weapon. Marines apply a slow, steady pressure to the opponent's hand and fingers until his grip is softened or he releases his hold.

Strikes. If it is difficult to apply a retention technique, Marines employ strikes or kicks to force the opponent to loosen his grip. Strikes to the

eyes, the arms (radial nerve), or shoulder (brachial plexus tie in) soften the opponent's grip on the weapon.

Kicks and knee strikes to the peroneal nerve, the femoral nerve, or the groin are effective because the opponent is typically unprepared to counter the strike.

Stomping on the top of the opponent's foot may distract him or loosen his grip on the weapon.

4. Firearm Disarmament Techniques

Marines use firearm disarmament techniques during a close-range confrontation if they are un-

armed and the opponent has a firearm (pistol). These techniques are equally effective if Marines are armed but do not have time to withdraw and present the weapon. The goal of firearm disarmament techniques is to gain control of the situation

so Marines gain the tactical advantage. The goal is not necessarily to get control of the opponent's weapon.

Pistol to the Front

This technique is used when Marines are unarmed and the opponent has a pistol pointing at their front (e.g., head, chest). The technique is the same if the opponent sticks the pistol under the Marine's chin. To execute the counter when an opponent is pointing a pistol toward the front of a Marine, Marines—

Place the hands close to the weapon, about chest high, palms out.

Use the left hand to grab the opponent's forearm and push the opponent's hand with the pistol away to clear the body from in front of the weapon. At the same time, rotate the right shoulder back to clear the body from the weapon.

Maintain control of the opponent's arm.

Grasp the weapon with the right hand by placing the thumb underneath the pistol and the fingers over top of the pistol.

Keep the right hand wrapped tightly around the muzzle and quickly rotate the pistol in the opponent's hand so the muzzle is facing the opponent.

Grasp and pull the opponent's wrist or forearm away from the body while rotating the weapon.

Rotate the weapon toward the opponent while pulling it up and back and out of the opponent's grasp.

Pistol to the Rear

This technique is performed when Marines are unarmed and the opponent has a pistol pointing to the back of the Marine's head. To execute the counter when the opponent is pointing a pistol to the rear, Marines—

Place the hands close together about chest high, palms out.

Step back with the left foot, pivoting on the right foot so the side is against the opponent's front. This action clears the body from the weapon's line of fire. Keep the left hand up.

Pivot on the left foot to face the opponent and, at the same time, raise the left elbow and reach over the top of the opponent's arm with the left arm.

Wrap the left arm tightly around the opponent's arm above his elbow to control it.

Push on the opponent's shoulder with the right hand while pulling up with the left arm to achieve an armbar. This action releases the opponent's grip on the weapon. If necessary, the opponent can be taken to the ground with a leg sweep.

Note: To execute this technique, the weapon must be close to or touching the rear of the Marine. If the weapon is too far away from the body, this technique would be difficult to execute or it would be ineffective.

CHAPTER 3

HAND-HELD WEAPONS

This chapter describes all techniques for a right-handed person. However, all techniques can be executed from either side.

In drawings, the Marine is depicted in woodland camouflage utilities; the opponent is depicted without camouflage. In photographs, the Marine is depicted in woodland camouflage utilities; the opponent is depicted in desert camouflage utilities.

Marines must know how to defend against attacks when an opponent is either unarmed or armed with a held-held weapon. This chapter addresses the combative use of knives, specific weapons of opportunity, and sticks. However, virtually anything can be used as a hand-held weapon.

1. Fundamentals of Knife Fighting

Marines must be trained in knife fighting techniques. Marines experienced in offensive knife techniques can cause enough damage and massive trauma to stop an opponent. When engaged against each other, experienced knife fighters employ various maneuvers and techniques that are specific to knife fighting. Seldom, if ever, will Marines engage an opponent in a classical knife fight.

Note: When armed with a rifle, Marines are issued a bayonet. When armed with a pistol, Marine are issued a combat knife.

Angles of Attack

There are six angles from which an attack with a knife can be launched:

- Vertical strike coming straight down on an opponent.
- Forward diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the opponent.
- Reverse diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the opponent.
- Forward horizontal strike coming in parallel to the ground.
- Reverse horizontal strike coming in parallel to the ground.
- Forward thrust coming in a straight line to the opponent.

Target Areas of the Body

During any confrontation, the parts of the opponent's body that are exposed or readily accessible will vary. The goal in a knife fight is to attack the body's soft, vital target areas that are readily accessible (e.g, the face, the sides and front of the neck, the lower abdomen [or groin]).

Neck. Carotid arteries, located on either side of the neck, are good target areas because they are not covered by body armor or natural protection.

Lower Abdomen (or Groin). The lower abdomen (or groin region) is a good target area because it is not covered by body armor.

Heart. The heart, if not covered by body armor, is an excellent target which, if struck, can prove fatal in a matter of seconds or minutes.

Secondary Targets. There are secondary target areas that will cause substantial bleeding if an artery is severed. These target areas are not immediately fatal, but can become fatal if left unattended. Attacks to—

- The legs can cause a great deal of trauma and prove fatal. For example, the femoral artery located on the inside of the thigh is a large artery which, if cut, will cause extensive blood loss.
- The brachial artery, located between the biceps and triceps on the inside of the arm, can cause extensive bleeding and damage.
- The arm's radial and ulnar nerves can cause extensive bleeding and damage.

Movement

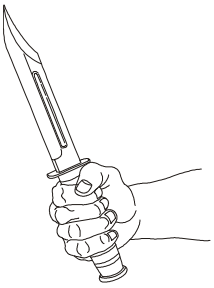
Marines can move anywhere within a 360-degree circle around the opponent. This allows accessibility to different target areas of the opponent's body. Marines should avoid being directly in front of an opponent because the opponent can rely on his forward momentum to seize the tactical advantage. If Marines face an opponent, movement is made in a 45-degree angle to either side of the opponent. This angle avoids an opponent's strike and places Marines in the best position to attack an opponent.

Wearing the Combat Knife

Marines must wear the combat knife where it is easily accessible and where it can best be retained. It is recommended the combat knife be worn on the weak side hip, blade down, sharp edge facing forward. Marines can place it behind the magazine pouch where it is easily accessible to them, but not easily grabbed by an opponent.

Grip

The grip on the knife should be natural. Marines grasp the knife's grip with the fingers wrapped around the grip naturally as it is pulled out of its sheath. This is commonly known as a hammer grip. The blade end of the knife is always facing the opponent.



Stance

Marines use the basic warrior stance as the foundation for knife techniques. The left hand is a vertical shield that protects either the ribs or the head and neck. The right elbow is bent with the blade pointing forward toward the opponent's head. This position serves as an index point, where all techniques are initiated.

Principles of Knife Fighting

The following are key principles of knife fighting:

- Execute movements with the knife blade within a box, shoulder-width across from the neck down to the waistline. The opponent has a greater chance of blocking an attack if the blade is brought in a wide, sweeping movement to the opponent.
- Close with the opponent, coming straight to the target.
- Move with the knife in straight lines.
- Point the knife's blade tip forward and toward the opponent.
- Apply full body weight and power in each of the knife techniques. Full body weight should be put into the attack in the direction of the blade's movement (slash or thrust).
- Apply constant forward pressure with the body and blade to keep the opponent off-balanced.

2. Knife Fighting Techniques

Slashing Techniques

Marines use slashing techniques to close with an enemy. Slashing techniques distract the opponent or damage the opponent so Marines can close in. Typically, Marines target the opponent's limbs, but any portion of the body that is presented can become a target.

Vertical Slash Technique. The vertical slash follows a vertical line straight down through the target. To execute the vertical slash, Marines—

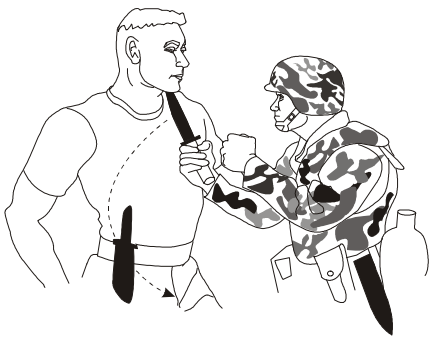
Thrust the right hand out and bring the weapon straight down on the opponent, continuing to drag the knife down through the opponent's body.

Maintain contact on the opponent's body with the blade of the knife.

Forward Slash Technique. The forward slash follows a straight line in a forehand stroke, across the target areas of either the neck (high diagonal slash) or abdominal region (low horizontal slash). To execute the forward slash, Marines—

Extend the right hand while simultaneously rotating the palm up until the knife blade makes contact with the opponent.

Snap or rotate the wrist through the slashing motion to maximize blade's contact with the opponent.



Drag the knife across the opponent's body, from right to left, in a forehand stroke. The movement ends with the forearm against the body and the knife at the left hip with its blade oriented toward the opponent.

Reverse Slash Technique. The reverse slash is a follow-up technique to a forward attack. It allows Marines both a secondary attack and the ability to resume the basic warrior stance. The reverse slash follows a straight line in a backhand stroke, across the target areas of either the neck (high diagonal slash) or abdominal region (low horizontal slash). To execute the reverse slash, Marines—

Extend the right hand while simultaneously rotating the palm down until the knife blade makes contact with the opponent.

Snap or rotate the wrist through the slashing motion to maximize the blade's contact with the opponent.

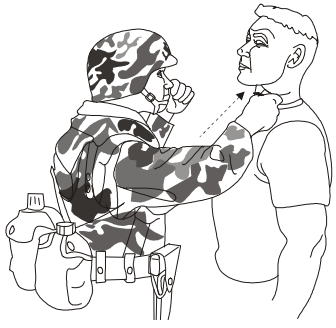
Drag the knife across the opponent's body, from left to right, in a backhand stroke. Maintain contact on the opponent's body with the blade of the knife.

Thrusting Techniques

The primary objective of knife fighting is to insert the blade into an opponent to cause extensive damage and trauma. This is done with a thrusting technique. Thrusting techniques are more effective than slashing techniques because of the damage they can inflict. However, Marines use slashing techniques to close with the enemy so that they are closer to the opponent, which allows them to use the thrusting technique.

Vertical Thrust. The thrusting motion follows a vertical line straight up through the target (low into the abdomen region or high into the neck). To execute the vertical thrust, Marines—

Thrust the right hand toward the target, inserting the knife blade straight into the opponent.



Pull the knife out of the opponent.

Forward Thrust. The forward thrust follows a straight line straight into the opponent's neck (high thrust) or abdominal region (low thrust). To execute the forward thrust, Marines—

Thrust the right hand, palm down, toward the target, inserting the knife blade straight into the opponent.

Rotate the palm up once the knife is inserted to twist the blade.

Drop the right elbow and bring the knife to the opposite side of the opponent's body from where it was inserted. At the same time, rotate the hips and shoulders downward to bring body weight to bear on the attack.

Reverse Thrust. The reverse thrust is a follow-up technique to a forward attack. It allows Marines both a secondary attack and the ability to resume the basic warrior stance. The reverse thrust follows a horizontal line straight into the opponent's neck (high thrust) or abdominal region (low thrust). To execute the reverse thrust, Marines—

Bend the right arm, crossing the arm to the left side of the body.

Thrust the right hand, palm up, toward the target, inserting the knife blade straight into the opponent.

Rotate the palm down to twist the blade once the knife is inserted.

Bring the knife to the opposite side of the opponent's body from where it was inserted.

3. Weapons of Opportunity

During an unarmed close combat situation, Marines use their bodies as weapons, but they should be ready and able to use anything around them as a weapon. For example, Marines could throw sand or liquid in an opponent's eyes to temporarily impair his vision or smash the opponent's head with a rock or helmet. Marines must use whatever means are available and do whatever it takes to take control of the situation and to win, or they face the possibility of losing their lives. Some weapons of opportunity are discussed in the following subparagraphs.

Entrenching Tool

An entrenching tool (E-tool) is commonly carried by Marines. It can be an excellent weapon, especially when sharpened. Marines can use the E-tool to block, slash, and thrust at an opponent.

Tent Pole and Pins

Marines can use tent poles and pins to block, strike, or thrust at an opponent.

Web Belt

Marines can stretch a web belt between their hands to block attacks by an opponent.

Battlefield Debris

Marines can use debris on the battlefield (e.g., sticks, glass, a sharp piece of metal) to cut, slash, or stab an opponent. They can also use other types of debris such as shovel or ax handles, boards, metal pipes, or broken rifles to strike an opponent or apply a choke.

Helmet

A helmet can be used to strike an opponent on an unprotected area like the head and face. Grasp the rim of the helmet and thrust the arms forward, striking the opponent with the top of the helmet.

4. Fundamentals of Combative Stick

On the battlefield, Marines must be ready and able to use anything as a weapon. They must learn and be able to use techniques that can be employed with most weapons of opportunity. Among these techniques are combative stick techniques. Combative stick techniques can be used with a stick, a club, a broken rifle, an E-tool, or even a web belt.

Angles of Attack

There are six angles from which an attack with a hand-held weapon can be launched:

- Vertical strike coming straight down on an opponent.
- Forward diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the opponent.
- Reverse diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the opponent.
- Forward horizontal strike coming in parallel to the ground.
- Reverse horizontal strike coming in parallel to the ground.
- Forward thrust coming in a straight line to the opponent.

Grip

Grasp the stick about 2 inches from its base.

Stance

The basic warrior stance serves as the foundation for combative stick techniques. The left hand becomes a vertical shield that protects the ribs or the head and neck. Depending on how heavy the weapon is, it should be held at a level approximately shoulder height.

Movement

Movement during combative stick techniques is the same as it is for other close combat techniques. Marines can move anywhere within a 360-degree circle around the opponent. This allows accessibility to different target areas of the opponent's body and gains a tactical advantage.

Marines should avoid being directly in front of an opponent because the opponent can rely on his forward momentum to seize the tactical advantage. If Marines face an opponent, movement is made in a 45-degree angle to either side of the opponent. This angle avoids an opponent's strike and places Marines in the best position to attack an opponent.

5. Combative Stick Techniques

Strikes

Strikes are intended to inflict as much damage on an opponent as possible. Striking techniques apply to a weapon of opportunity such as a stick, a tent pole, a club, a broken rifle, an E-tool, or a pipe.

Vertical Strike. To execute the vertical strike, Marines—

Bend the right arm, extending the weapon over the back of the right shoulder.

Rotate the forearm straight down off the elbow to bring the weapon down on the opponent.

Rotate the hips and shoulders forcefully toward the opponent.

Follow through with the strike by allowing the weight of the weapon to go through the target area of the body.

Forward Strike. To execute a forward strike, Marines—

Step forward with the left foot in the direction of the strike.

Bend the right arm with the elbow extending out to the right and the weapon extended over the right shoulder.

Rotate the forearm to the right of the elbow to bring the weapon down onto the opponent. At the same time, forcefully rotate the hips and shoulders toward the opponent.

Follow through with the strike by allowing the weight of the weapon to go through the target area of the body.

Reverse Strike. The reverse strike is a follow-up technique to a forward strike. It allows Marines both a secondary attack and the ability to resume the basic warrior stance.To execute a reverse strike, Marines—

Step forward with the right foot in the direction of the strike.

Bend the right arm with the hand near the left shoulder. The weapon is extended over the left shoulder.

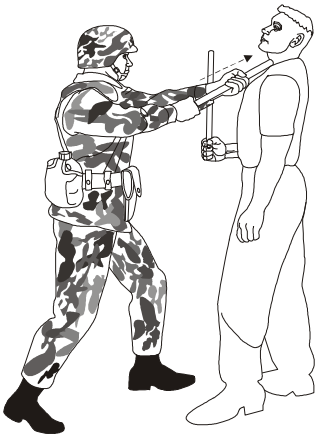
Rotate the forearm to the right of the elbow to bring the weapon down onto the opponent. At the same time, forcefully rotate the hips and shoulders toward the opponent.

Follow through with the strike by allowing the weight of the weapon to go through the target area of the body.

Forward Thrust. To execute the forward thrust, Marines—

Grasp the stick with the left hand, palm up, in a position where the stick can be controlled with two hands.

Lift the left leg and lunge forward off the ball of the right foot. At the same time, thrust the end of the weapon directly toward the opponent by thrusting both hands forward in a straight line.



6. Blocking Techniques

A block is meant to deter or deflect an attack by an opponent. A block sets up Marines for a follow-on attack against the opponent. Blocks are executed by deflecting, rather than hitting or following through like a strike.

Blocks Against Unarmed Attacks

To block against an unarmed attack, Marines—

Step forward at a 45-degree angle with either the right or left foot. This moves the body out of the line of attack.

Raise the left arm and block the strike with the meaty portion of the forearm.

Employ the stick by one of two techniques:

- Strike the opponent with the stick.
- Use the stick to block on two points of contact. When the stick is used to block, it serves as an incidental strike. This technique is only used if Marines have closed with the opponent and are inside his strike.

Blocks Against Armed Attacks

Block for a Vertical Strike. To execute the block for a vertical strike, Marines—

Step forward with the left foot at a 45-degree angle to the left. This moves the body out of the line of attack.

Block on two points of contact to disperse the impact of the attack:

- Block the opponent's stick by positioning the stick so it is perpendicular to the opponent's stick. If the stick is not perpendicular to the opponent's stick, the stick can slide through and make contact on the Marine.
- Block the opponent's wrist or forearm with the back of the left forearm.

Note: Use the stick to block the opponent's arm if closer to the opponent. It is the same movement as blocking with the arm, except the opponent's arm is blocked with both the stick and the arm.

Block for a Forward Strike. To execute the block for a forward strike, Marines—

Step forward with the left foot at a 45-degree angle to the left. This moves the body out of the line of attack and inside the opponent's strike.

Block on two points of contact to disperse the impact of the attack:

- Block the opponent's wrist or forearm with the meaty portion of the back of the left forearm.
- Strike the opponent's attacking biceps with the stick.

Block for a Reverse Strike. To execute the block for a reverse strike, Marines—

Step forward at a 45-degree angle with the right foot to the right. This moves the body out of the line of attack and inside the opponent's strike.

Block on two points of contact to disperse the impact of the attack:

- Block the opponent's stick by positioning the stick so it is perpendicular to the opponent's stick.

Block the opponent's forearm with the meaty portion of the left forearm.

Note: If closer to the opponent, block his triceps with the back of the left forearm and strike his forearm with the stick.

7. Unarmed Against Hand-Held Weapons

If Marines are engaged against an opponent with a knife, a stick, or some other weapon of opportunity, they must establish and maintain an offensive mindset, not a defensive mindset. Their survival depends on it. They cannot afford to think about getting cut or hurt.

Angles of Attack

Before Marines can learn to block or counter an attack with a hand-held weapon (e.g., knife, stick), they must know from what angle the opponent is attacking. There are six angles from which an opponent will typically attack with a hand-held weapon:

- Vertical strike coming in straight down on the Marine.
- Forward diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the Marine.
- Reverse diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the Marine.
- Forward horizontal strike coming in parallel to the ground.
- Reverse horizontal strike coming in parallel to the ground.
- Forward thrust coming in a straight line to the Marine.

Blocks

If the opponent has a hand-held weapon (e.g., knife or stick), Marines parry the opponent's hand or arm to block the attack.

Basic Block. To execute the basic block technique, Marines—

Step forward at a 45-degree angle to move out of the line of the attack. Always step in the direction of the strike.

Thrust the forearms forward, hands up, against the opponent's attacking arm. Contact is made on the opponent's arm with the backs of the forearms.

Block for a Vertical Strike. To execute the block against a vertical strike, Marines—

Step forward with the left foot at a 45-degree angle to the left to move out of the line of attack.

Thrust the forearms forward, hands up, against the outside of the opponent's attacking arm.

Block for a Forward Strike. To execute the block against a forward diagonal or forward horizontal strike, Marines—

Step forward with the left foot inside the opponent's attacking arm.

Block the attack with both arms bent so the forearms make contact with the opponent's biceps and forearm.

Block for a Reverse Strike. To execute the block against a reverse diagonal or reverse horizontal strike, Marines—

Step forward with the right foot to the outside of the opponent's attacking arm.

Block the attack with both arms bent so the forearms make contact with the opponent's triceps and forearm.

Block for a Forward Thrust. To execute the block against a forward thrust, Marines—

Bend at the waist, move the hips backward, and jump backward with both feet to move away from the attack. This action is known as "hollowing out."

Hollow out and block the attack with the arms bent and hands together on top of the attacking arm.

Overlap the hands slightly so one thumb is on top of the other hand's index finger. The other thumb should be under the other hand's index finger.

8. Counters to Hand-Held Weapon Attacks

Principles of Counters

A counter is used to control the situation to regain the tactical advantage and end the fight. Regardless of the type of weapon or angle of attack, the following principles apply to countering the attack with a hand-held weapon:

- Move out of the line of attack. Movement is executed in a 45-degree angle forward to the left or right.
- Block the attack.

Note: The first two actions are taken simultaneously.

- Take control of the weapon by controlling the hand or arm that is holding the weapon. Never attempt to grab the opponent's weapon.
- Execute the appropriate follow-up to end the fight; e.g., strikes, joint manipulations, throws, or takedowns (see chap. 8). Marines should continue to attack the opponent until the fight ends.

Counter Techniques

There are two techniques that can be used to counter any armed attack: forward armbar counter and reverse armbar counter. These techniques can be used to counter a vertical attack, a forward diagonal strike, or a forward horizontal strike. With minor variations, the same techniques are used to counter reverse strikes. A third technique, the bent armbar counter, is used to counter a vertical attack.

Forward Armbar Counter. To execute the forward armbar counter to an attack coming from a forward strike, Marines—

Step forward with the left foot inside the opponent's attacking arm.

Block the attack with both arms bent so the forearms make contact with the opponent's biceps and forearm.

Slide the left arm over the opponent's forearm and wrap the arm tightly around his arm, trapping the opponent's attacking arm between the biceps and torso.

Place the right hand on the opponent's shoulder or upper arm to further control his arm and to effect an armbar.

Execute an armbar and continue to exert steady pressure against the arm.

Reverse Armbar Counter. To execute the reverse armbar counter to an attack coming from a forward strike, Marines—

Step forward with the left foot inside the opponent's attacking arm.

Block the attack with both arms bent so the forearms make contact with the opponent's biceps and forearm.

Control the opponent's arm with the left hand and pivot to the right so the back is against the opponent's side. Immediately slide the right arm over the opponent's biceps and wrap the arm tightly around his arm, trapping the opponent's attacking arm between the biceps and torso.

Grasp the opponent's wrist with the left hand and twist his thumb away from the body.

Take the opponent to the ground with an armbar takedown if he does not drop the weapon from the wristlock.

Bent Armbar Counter. This counter is particularly effective against a vertical attack. To execute the bent armbar counter, Marines—

Step forward with the left foot inside the opponent's attacking arm.

Block the attack with both arms bent so the forearms make contact with the opponent's biceps and forearm.

Grasp the opponent's forearm with the left hand. At the same time, slide the right arm underneath the opponent's triceps and grasp the opponent's forearm or wrist with the right hand.

Apply downward pressure with the hands against the opponent's forearm to off-balance the opponent.

CHAPTER 4

STRIKES

This chapter describes all techniques for a right-handed person. However, all techniques can be executed from either side.

In drawings, the Marine is depicted in woodland camouflage utilities; the opponent is depicted without camouflage. In photographs, the Marine is depicted in woodland camouflage utilities; the opponent is depicted in desert camouflage utilities.

Strikes are unarmed individual hitting techniques. Strikes use the hands, elbows, knees, feet, and, in some instances, other parts of the body as personal weapons. Marines must know how to execute strikes effectively. They must also know how to counter strikes from an opponent.

1. Principles of Punches

Muscle Relaxation

Muscle relaxation is crucial when executing punches. The natural tendency in a fight is to tense up, which results in rapid fatigue and decreased power generation. Marines who remain relaxed during a close combat situation generate greater speed, which results in greater generation of power. Relaxing the forearms generates speed and improves reaction time. At the point of impact, Marines clench the fist to cause damage to the opponent and avoid injury to the wrist and hand.

Weight Transfer

Weight transfer is necessary to generate power in a punch. Marines accomplish this by—

- Rotating their hips and shoulders into the attack.
- Moving their body mass straight forward or backward in a straight line.
- Dropping their body weight into an opponent. Body mass can be transferred into an attack from high to low or from low to high.

Rapid Retraction

When Marines deliver a punch, rapid retraction of the fist is important. Once the hand has made contact with the target, Marines quickly return to the basic warrior stance. Rapid retraction—

- Returns the hand and arm to the protection afforded by the basic warrior stance.
- Prevents the opponent from being able to grab the hand or arm.
- Permits the hand and arm to be "chambered" or "re-cocked" in preparation for delivering a subsequent punch.

Telegraphing

Telegraphing a strike occurs when body movements inform the opponent of the intention to launch an attack. Staying relaxed helps to reduce telegraphing.

Often, an untrained fighter telegraphs his intention to attack by drawing his hand back in view of his opponent, changing facial expression, tensing neck muscles, or twitching. These movements,

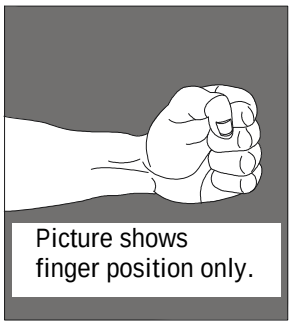
however small, immediately indicate an attack is about to be delivered. If the opponent is a trained fighter, he may be able to evade or counter the attack. If the opponent is an untrained fighter, he may still be able to minimize the effect of an attack.

2. Punches

Punches may be thrown during any hand-to-hand confrontation. Most people resort to punching because it is a natural reaction to a threat. The purpose of a punch is to stun the opponent or to set him up for a follow-up finishing technique. However, punches should only be executed to the soft tissue areas of an opponent. A correctly delivered punch maximizes the damage to an opponent while minimizing the risk of injury to Marines.

Basic Fist

Punches are executed using the basic fist. To make the basic fist, the fingers are curled naturally into the palm of the hand and the thumb is placed across the index and middle fingers. Do not clench the fist until movement has begun. This reduces muscular tension in the forearm and increases speed and reaction time. Just before impact, Marines exert muscular tension on the hand and forearm to maximize damage to the opponent and reduce their chances of injury. Contact should be made with the knuckles of the index and middle fingers.

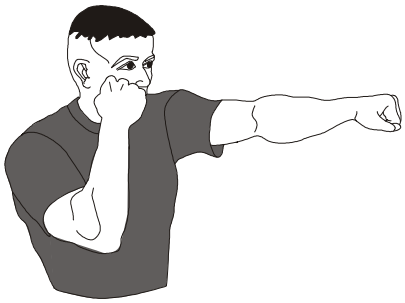


When striking with the basic fist, Marines must keep the hand straight, or in line, with the wrist to avoid injury to the wrist.

Lead Hand Punch

The lead hand punch is a snapping straight punch executed by the forward or lead hand. It is a fast punch designed to keep the opponent away and to set up an attack. A lead hand punch conceals movement and allows Marines to get close to the opponent. Lead hand punches should strike soft tissue areas, if possible. To execute the lead hand punch, Marines—

Snap the lead hand out to nearly full extension, while rotating the palm to the ground.



Contact the opponent with the first two knuckles of the fist.

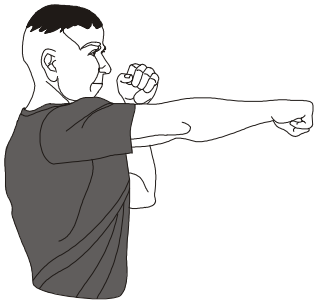
Retract the hand immediately, resuming the basic warrior stance.

Rear Hand Punch

The rear hand punch is a snapping punch executed by the rear (right) hand. It is a power punch designed to inflict maximum damage on the opponent. Its power comes from pushing off the rear leg and rotating the hips and shoulders. To execute the rear hand punch, Marines—

Rotate the hips and shoulders forcefully toward the opponent and thrust the rear hand straight out, rotating the palm down, to nearly full extension.

Shift body weight to the lead foot while pushing off on the ball of the rear foot.



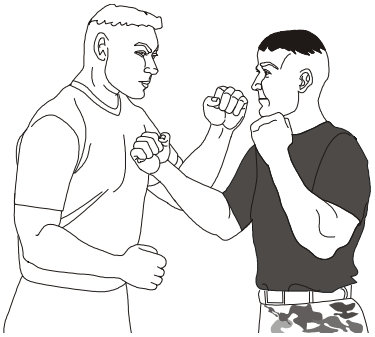
Contact the opponent with the first two knuckles of the fist.

Retract the hand immediately.

Uppercut

The uppercut is a powerful punch originating below the opponent's line of vision. It is executed in an upward motion traveling up the centerline of the opponent's body. It is delivered in close and usually follows a preparatory strike that leaves the target area unprotected. When delivered to the chin or jaw, the uppercut can render an opponent unconscious, cause extensive damage to the neck, or sever the tongue. To execute the uppercut, Marines—

Bend the arms, rotating the palm inboard. The distance the arms bend depends on how close the opponent is.



Rotate the hips and shoulders forcefully toward the opponent, thrusting the fist straight up toward the opponent's chin or jaw.

Contact the opponent with the first two knuckles of the fist.

Retract the hand immediately.

Hook

The hook is a powerful punch that is executed close in and is usually preceded by a preparatory strike. To execute the hook, Marines—

Thrust the right arm in a hooking motion toward the opponent, keeping the elbow bent while forcefully rotating the right shoulder and hip toward the opponent.

Contact the opponent with the first two knuckles of the fist. Continue rotating the shoulder and hip, following through with the fist to the target.

Retract the hand immediately.

3. Strikes with the Upper Body

Strikes stun the opponent or set him up for a follow-up finishing technique. The hands, forearms, and elbows are individual weapons of the arms that can be used to execute strikes including the hammer fist, chin jab, knife hand, eye gouge, and elbow strikes. These strikes provide a variety of techniques that can be used in any type of close combat situation.

Principles of Execution

There are several principles of execution that ensure a strike's effectiveness.

Generating Power. Weight transfer is necessary to generate maximum power in a punch. Marines accomplish this by—

- Rotating the hips and shoulders into the attack.
- Moving the body mass straight forward or backward in a straight line.
- Dropping body weight into an opponent. Body mass can be transferred into an attack from high to low or from low to high.

Muscular Tension. The arms are relaxed until the moment of impact. At the point of impact, Marines apply muscular tension in the hand and forearm to maximize damage to the opponent and to avoid injury to the hand. The arms are relaxed until the moment of impact.

Hit and Stick and Follow-Through. A strike should be delivered so that the weapon (e.g., hand, elbow) hits and remains on the impact site (target) and follows through the target. This technique inflicts maximum damage on the opponent.

Strikes with the arms are executed with "heavy hands"; i.e., the strike is executed by driving through with the strike to allow the weight of the hand to go through the target area of the body. Contact with the opponent should be made with the arm slightly bent, and the arm extends as it moves through the target. This technique allows Marines to deliver strikes effectively without executing full force.

Movement. Movement puts Marines in the proper position for launching an attack against an opponent as well as providing protection.

Movement is initiated from the basic warrior stance and ends by resuming the basic warrior stance. Strikes can be performed with either the left or right arm depending upon—

- The angle of attack.
- The position of the opponent.
- The opponent's available, vulnerable target areas.

Target Areas of the Body

For each strike, there are target areas of the body that, when struck, maximize damage to an opponent. Strikes use gross motor skills as opposed to fine motor skills. The target areas of the body are just that—areas. Pinpoint accuracy on a specific nerve is not needed for the strike to be effective.

Hammer Fist

Striking with the hammer fist concentrates power in a small part of the hand, which, when transferred to the target, can have a devastating effect. The striking surface of the hammer fist is the meaty portion of the hand below the little finger. To execute the hammer fist strike, Marines—

Make a fist and bend the arm at approximately a 45- to 90-degree angle. At the same time, rotate the right hip and right shoulder backward.

Thrust the fist forward onto the opponent while rotating the right hip and shoulder forward.

Rotate the wrist so the hammer fist makes contact on the opponent.

Chin Jab

The chin jab can immediately render an opponent unconscious and cause extensive damage to the neck and spine. The striking surface is the heel of the palm of the hand. To execute the chin jab, Marines—

Bend the right wrist back at a 90-degree angle with the palm facing the opponent and the fingers pointing up.

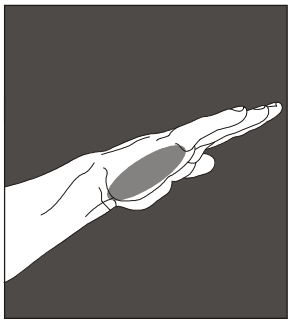
Keep the right arm bent and close to the body. Extend the hand into a concave position with the fingers slightly spread apart.

Step forward with the left foot toward the opponent, keeping the feet approximately shoulder-width apart and the knees bent. This is done to close with the opponent.

Keep the right arm bent and close to the side. Thrust the palm of the hand directly up under the opponent's chin. At the same time, rotate the right hip forward to drive the body weight into the attack to increase the power of the strike. The attack should travel up the centerline of the opponent's chest to his chin.

Knife Hand

The knife hand is one of the most versatile and devastating strikes. The striking surface is the cutting edge of the hand, which is the meaty portion of the hand below the little finger extending to the top of the wrist. The striking surface is narrow, allowing strikes on the neck between the opponent's body armor and helmet. The knife hand strike is executed from one of three angles: outside, inside, and vertical.



Outside Knife Hand. To execute the outside knife hand strike, Marines—

Execute a knife hand by extending and joining the fingers of the right hand and placing the thumb next to the forefinger (like saluting).

Retract the right hand. At the same time, rotate the right hip and right shoulder backward.

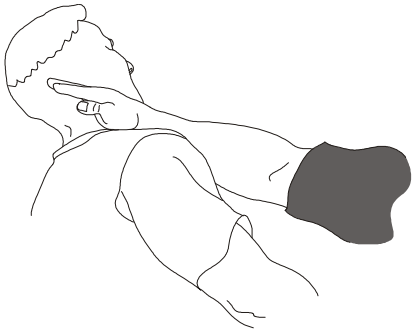
Thrust the knife hand forward (horizontally) onto the opponent while rotating the right hip and shoulder forward.

Inside Knife Hand. To execute the inside knife hand strike, Marines—

Execute a knife hand.

Bring the right hand over the left shoulder. At the same time, rotate the right shoulder forward and the left hip forward.

Thrust the knife hand forward (horizontally) onto the opponent while rotating the right hip and shoulder forward and the left shoulder backward.

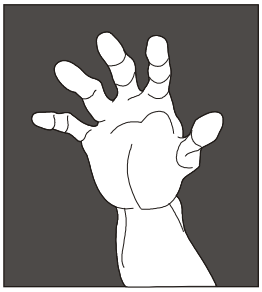


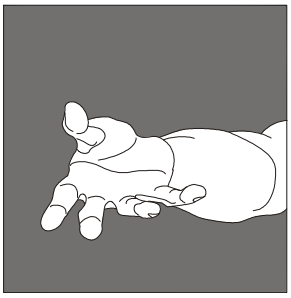
Vertical Knife Hand. When thrown vertically, the knife hand strike comes straight down in a straight line.

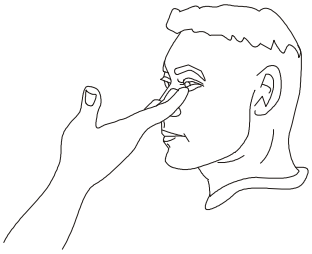
Eye Gouge

The eye gouge is used to attack an opponent's eyes, blinding him so follow-up strikes can be executed. The striking surface is the tips of the fingers or thumb. To execute the eye gouge, Marines—

Extend the right hand with the fingers slightly spread apart to allow entry into the eye sockets.







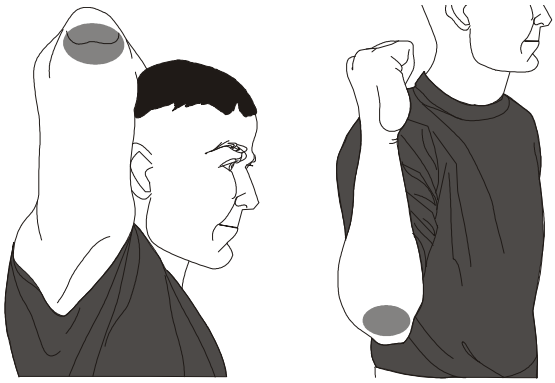
Place the palm of the hand either toward the ground or toward the sky and thrust the right hand forward into the opponent's eyes.

Thrust the hand forward at the opponent's nose level so the fingers or thumb slide naturally into the grooves of the opponent's eye sockets.

Elbow Strikes

The elbow is a powerful weapon that can be used in several different ways to attack virtually any part of an opponent's body. Elbow strikes can be performed either vertically (upward or downward) or horizontally (forward or reverse). The

striking surface is 2 inches above or below the point of the elbow, depending upon the angle of attack, the opponent's attack angle, and the position of the opponent.



Above Elbow **Below Elbow**

Vertical Elbow Strike (Up). To execute an upward vertical elbow strike, Marines—

Bend the right elbow, keeping the fist close to the body. The fist is at shoulder level and the elbow is next to the torso.

Thrust the elbow vertically upward toward the opponent while rotating the right shoulder and hip forward to generate additional power.

Contact the opponent with the right forearm 2 inches above the point of the elbow.

Vertical Elbow Strike (Down). To execute a downward vertical elbow strike, Marines—

Bend the right elbow, keeping the fist close to the body. The fist is on the shoulder and the elbow is raised well above the shoulder.

Thrust the elbow vertically downward toward the opponent while dropping body weight into the attack to generate additional power.

Contact the opponent with the right triceps 2 inches above the point of the elbow.

Horizontal Elbow Strike (Forward). To execute the forward horizontal elbow strike, Marines—

Tuck the right fist near the chest with the palm heel facing the ground.

Thrust the right elbow horizontally forward toward the opponent. The forearm is parallel to the ground.

Rotate the right shoulder and hip forward to generate additional power.

Contact the opponent with the right forearm 2 inches below the point of the elbow.

Horizontal Elbow Strike (Rear). To execute the rear horizontal elbow strike, Marines—

Tuck the right fist near the left shoulder with the palm heel facing the ground. At the same time, rotate the right shoulder forward and the left hip forward.

Thrust the right elbow horizontally rearward toward the opponent. The forearm is parallel to the ground and the hand moves toward the direction of the attack.

Rotate the right hip back and the right shoulder backward to generate additional power.

Contact the opponent with the right triceps 2 inches above the point of the elbow.

4. Strikes with the Lower Body

The legs are the body's most powerful weapons because they use the largest muscle groups to generate a strike. Legs are also less prone to injury. The feet are the preferred choice for striking because they are protected by boots. Marines use their feet, heels, and knees to execute kicks, knee strikes, and stomps.

Kicks

The purpose of a kick is to stop an opponent's attack or to create an opening in his defense in order to launch an attack. Kicks can be performed with the left (lead) leg or the right (rear) leg. Kicks with the rear leg have greater power because the hips are rotated into the attack. However, the rear leg is further away from the opponent so a strike with the rear leg will not contact the opponent as quickly as a strike with the lead leg.

Front Kick. The front kick is executed when the opponent is in front of the Marine. The front kick, delivered with either the rear or lead leg, is effective for striking below the waist. Attempting to kick higher results in diminished balance and provides the enemy with a greater opportunity to grab the leg or foot. The striking surfaces are the toe of the boot or the bootlaces. To execute the front kick, Marines—

Raise the left knee waist high, pivot the hips into the attack, and thrust the left foot forward toward the opponent.

Contact the opponent with the toe of the left boot or bootlaces.

Return to the basic warrior stance.

Side Kick. The side kick, delivered with the lead leg, is effective for striking the knees. The side kick is executed when the opponent is to the side of the Marine. The striking surface is the outside cutting edge of the boot near the heel. To execute the side kick, Marines—

Raise the right knee waist high and rotate the right hip forward.

Thrust the right foot to the right side toward the opponent, turning the foot at a 90-degree angle to maximize the striking surface on the opponent.

Contact the opponent with the cutting edge of the right boot.

Return to the basic warrior stance.

Knee Strikes

Knee strikes are excellent weapons during the close range of close combat fighting. The knee strike is generally delivered in close.

Vertical Knee Strike. The striking surface is the thigh, slightly above the knee. To execute the vertical knee strike, Marines—

Raise the right knee and drive it up forcefully into the opponent. Power is generated by thrusting the leg upward.

Contact the opponent 2 inches above the right knee.

Horizontal Knee Strike. The horizontal knee strike is executed with the leg generally parallel with the ground while rotating the hips to generate power. It is often delivered to the peroneal nerve. The striking surface is the front of the leg, slightly above or below the knee. To execute the horizontal knee strike, Marines—

Raise the right knee, rotate the right hip forward while pivoting on the left foot, and drive the knee horizontally into the opponent.

Contact the opponent 2 inches above the right knee.

Stomps

Stomps are delivered with the feet, usually when the opponent is down. Remember, when the opponent is down, Marines take whatever target is available.

Vertical Stomp. The vertical stomp allows Marines to remain upright and balanced, to rapidly deliver multiple blows with either foot, and to quickly and accurately attack the target. It is the preferred stomp. The striking surface is the flat bottom of the boot or the cutting edge of the heel. To execute the vertical stomp, Marines—

Raise the right knee above the waist with the right leg bent at approximately a 90-degree angle.

Drive the flat bottom of the right boot or the cutting edge of the right heel down onto the opponent forcefully. At the same time, bend the left knee slightly to drop the body weight into the strike.

Ax Stomp. The striking surface of the ax stomp is the cutting edge of the heel. To execute the ax stomp, Marines—

Raise the right heel above the waist, keeping the right leg straight.

Drive the cutting edge of the right heel down onto the opponent forcefully. At the same time, bend the left knee slightly to drop the body weight into the strike.

5. Counters to Strikes

In a close combat situation, an opponent will attempt to strike Marines with punches and kicks. When an opponent uses a strike, Marines must first avoid the strike. This is accomplished by moving quickly and blocking. Next, Marines must get into an offensive position. This allows Marines to use offensive strikes to attack the opponent. Regardless of the strike, the counter to a strike requires Marines to move, block, and strike.

Move

The first step in countering a strike is to move out of the way of the strike's impact. Movement removes Marines from the opponent's intended strike point and positions Marines to attack. Movement is executed at approximately a 45-degree angle to the front or rear. Movement is always initiated from the basic warrior stance. Return to the basic warrior stance with the toe of

the lead foot pointing toward the opponent once the movement is complete.

Block

Different blocks are executed based on the strike. These will be covered by individual counters.

Strike

Any of the upper body or lower body strikes can be executed as a follow-on attack or part of the counter to an opponent's strike. The follow-on strike is determined by the angle to the opponent, the position of the opponent, and the opponent's available vulnerable target areas.

Counters to Punches

Counter to a Lead Hand Punch. This counter is used when the opponent throws a lead hand punch. To execute the counter to the lead hand punch, Marines—

Step forward and to the left at approximately a 45-degree angle, moving in to the outside of the opponent's attacking arm.

Raise the left arm and block or deflect the opponent's lead hand with the palm of the hand or the meaty portion of the forearm.

Hit and stick by leaving the left arm against the opponent's right arm while stepping forward and to the left at approximately a 45-degree angle to close with the opponent.

Execute a finishing technique, such as a strike or a kick, to the opponent's exposed target areas.

Counter to a Rear Hand Punch. This counter is used when the opponent throws a rear hand

punch. To execute the counter to the rear hand punch, Marines—

Step forward and to the left at approximately a 45-degree angle, moving in to the outside of the opponent's attacking arm.

Raise the left arm and block or deflect the opponent's rear hand with the palm of the hand or the meaty portion of the forearm.

Hit and stick by leaving the left arm against the opponent's right arm while stepping forward and to the right at approximately a 45-degree angle to close with the opponent.

Execute a finishing technique, such as a strike or a kick, to the opponent's exposed target areas.

Counters to Kicks

Counter to a Front Kick (Left or Lead Leg). This counter is used when the opponent executes a front kick with his left leg. To execute the counter to a front kick, Marines—

Step forward and to the right at approximately a 45-degree angle, moving in to the outside of the opponent's striking leg.

Lower the left arm and block or deflect the opponent's leg with the palm of the hand or the meaty portion of the forearm.

Hit and stick by leaving the left arm against the opponent's leg while stepping forward and to the left at approximately a 45-degree angle to close with the opponent.

Execute a finishing technique, such as a strike or a kick, to the opponent's exposed target areas.

Counter to a Front Kick (Right or Rear Leg). This counter is used when the opponent executes a front kick with his right leg. To execute the counter to a front kick, Marines—

Step forward and to the left at approximately a 45-degree angle, moving in to the outside of the opponent's striking leg.

Lower the left arm and block or deflect the opponent's leg with the palm of the hand or the meaty portion of the forearm.

Hit and stick by leaving the left arm against the opponent's leg while stepping forward and to the right at approximately a 45-degree angle to close with the opponent.

CHAPTER 5

THROWS

This chapter describes all techniques for a right-handed person. However, all techniques can be executed from either side.

The Marine is depicted in camouflage utilities. The opponent is depicted without camouflage.

Marines use throwing techniques to maintain the tactical advantage and to throw the opponent to the ground during close combat. Throws apply the principles of balance, leverage, timing, and body position to upset an opponent's balance and to gain control by forcing the opponent to the ground. Throwing techniques are effective because they are size- and gender-neutral, and they rely on the momentum and power generated by the opponent rather than the strength or size of the Marine. Marines also execute a throw as a devastating attack against an opponent, possibly causing unconsciousness or broken limbs. When Marines execute throws, they must maintain balance and, simultaneously, prevent the opponent from countering a throw or escaping after being forced to the ground.

1. Turning Throw

Marines use a turning throw to take the opponent to the ground while they remain standing. A turning throw can also be executed from a stationary position. It is particularly effective if Marines and the opponent are wearing gear. To execute the turning throw, Marines—

Grasp the opponent's right wrist with the left hand.

Step forward with the right foot, place it against the outside of the opponent's right foot, and pivot so the back of the heel is next to the middle of the opponent's foot.

Hook the opponent's right arm with the right arm and pinch his arm between the biceps and forearm, touching the opponent with the body.

Pull the opponent's wrist downward, keeping it close to the body.

Pivot to the left on the ball of the foot and continue pulling downward on the opponent's wrist while rotating the wrist outward to off-balance him.

2. Hip Throw

Marines use a hip throw to take the opponent to the ground while they remain standing. A hip throw is particularly effective if the opponent is moving forward or pushing. Marines use the opponent's forward momentum to execute the hip throw. To execute the hip throw, Marines—

Grasp the opponent's right wrist with the left hand.

Step forward with the right foot and place it against the outside of the opponent's right foot.

The back of the heel should be next to the opponent's foot.

Step back with the left foot and rotate on the ball of the foot. The back of the heel is next to the opponent's toe. The knees are bent.

Rotate at the waist and hook the right hand around the back of the opponent's body (anywhere from his waist to his head). The side and hip should be against the opponent.

Rotate the hip against the opponent. The hips must be lower than the opponent's.

Use the right hand to pull the opponent up on the hip to maximize contact.

Pull the opponent's arm across the body and, at the same time, lift the opponent off the ground slightly by bending at the waist, straightening the legs, and rotating the body to the left.

3. Leg Sweep

Marines use a leg sweep to take the opponent to the ground while they remain standing. A leg sweep is particularly effective if the opponent is already off-balanced and moving backward or pulling on the Marine. To execute the leg sweep, Marines—

Grab the opponent's right wrist with the left hand and grab the opponent's left shoulder with the right hand.

Note: Grab the opponent's clothing or gear if his wrist and shoulder cannot be grabbed.

Step forward with the left foot and place it on the outside of the opponent's right foot.

Pull the opponent's wrist downward, close to the body, and push his shoulder backward to off-balance him.

Raise the right knee no higher than the waist.

Kick the foot past the opponent's right leg.

Use the heel of the boot to make contact with the opponent's calf (anywhere from the top of the calf down to the Achilles tendon or on the inside of the calf).

Sweep the opponent to the ground.

CHAPTER 6

CHOKES AND HOLDS

This chapter describes all techniques for a right-handed person. However, all techniques can be executed from either side.

The Marine is depicted in camouflage utilities. The opponent is depicted without camouflage.

WARNING

During training, never execute a choke at full force or full speed and never hold a choke for more than 5 seconds.

When Marines correctly perform a choke, they render an opponent unconscious in as little as 8 to 13 seconds. Chokes are easily performed regardless of size or gender. Marines must know how to apply chokes and how to counter a choke or a hold executed by an opponent.

1. Types of Chokes

There are two types of chokes: an air choke and a blood choke. An air choke closes off the airway to the lungs, thereby preventing oxygen from reaching the heart. A blood choke cuts off the blood flow to the brain. Both types can result in unconsciousness and eventual death for an opponent.

Air Choke

An air choke is performed on the opponent's windpipe (or trachea), cutting off the air to the lungs and heart. If Marines execute the air choke properly, the opponent loses consciousness within 2 to 3 minutes. Due to the length of time it takes to immobilize the opponent, air chokes are not recommended.

Blood Choke

A blood choke is performed on the opponent's carotid artery, which carries oxygen-enriched blood from the heart to the brain. The carotid artery is located on both sides of the neck. If Marines execute a blood choke properly, the opponent will lose consciousness within 8 to 13 seconds. The blood choke is the preferred choke because its intended effect (i.e., the opponent losing consciousness) can be executed quickly, ending the fight.

2. Chokes

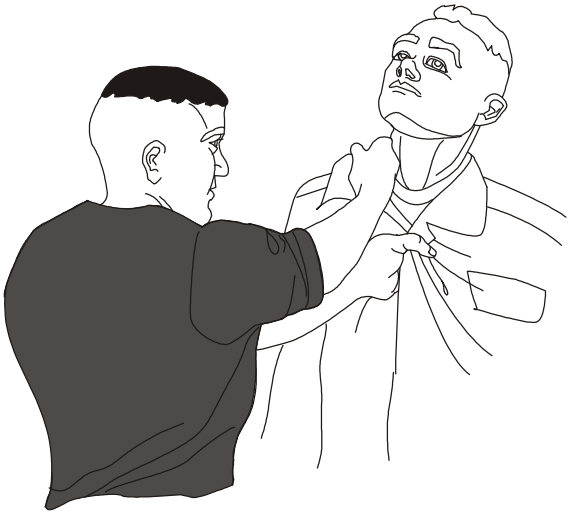
Front Choke

Marines execute a front choke when they are facing the opponent. Marines use the opponent's

lapels or collar to execute a front choke. To execute the front choke, Marines—

Grab the opponent's right lapel with the right hand, making certain that the knuckles or the back of the hand are against the opponent's carotid artery on the right side of his neck.

Keep the right hand against the opponent's neck, reach under the opponent's right arm with the left hand, grab the opponent's left lapel, and form an X with the wrists.



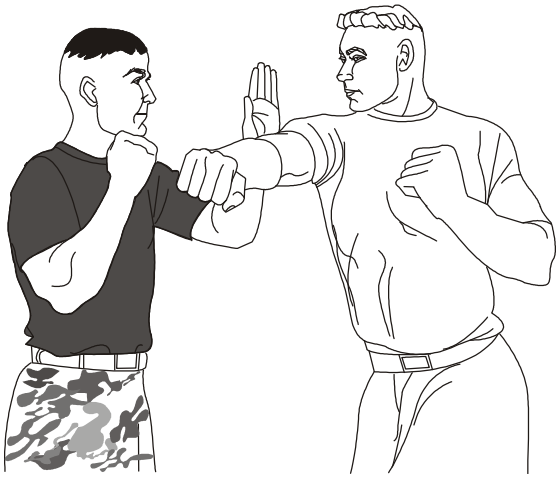
Press the right hand against the opponent's carotid artery.

Pull his lapel to the left with the left hand.

Side Choke

Marines execute a side choke when they are facing the opponent. The side choke is particularly effective when deflecting a punch thrown by an opponent. To execute the side choke, Marines—

Use the left hand to parry the opponent's arm inboard (to the inside of the opponent's reach).



Bring the right arm underneath the opponent's arm and up around the front of his neck.

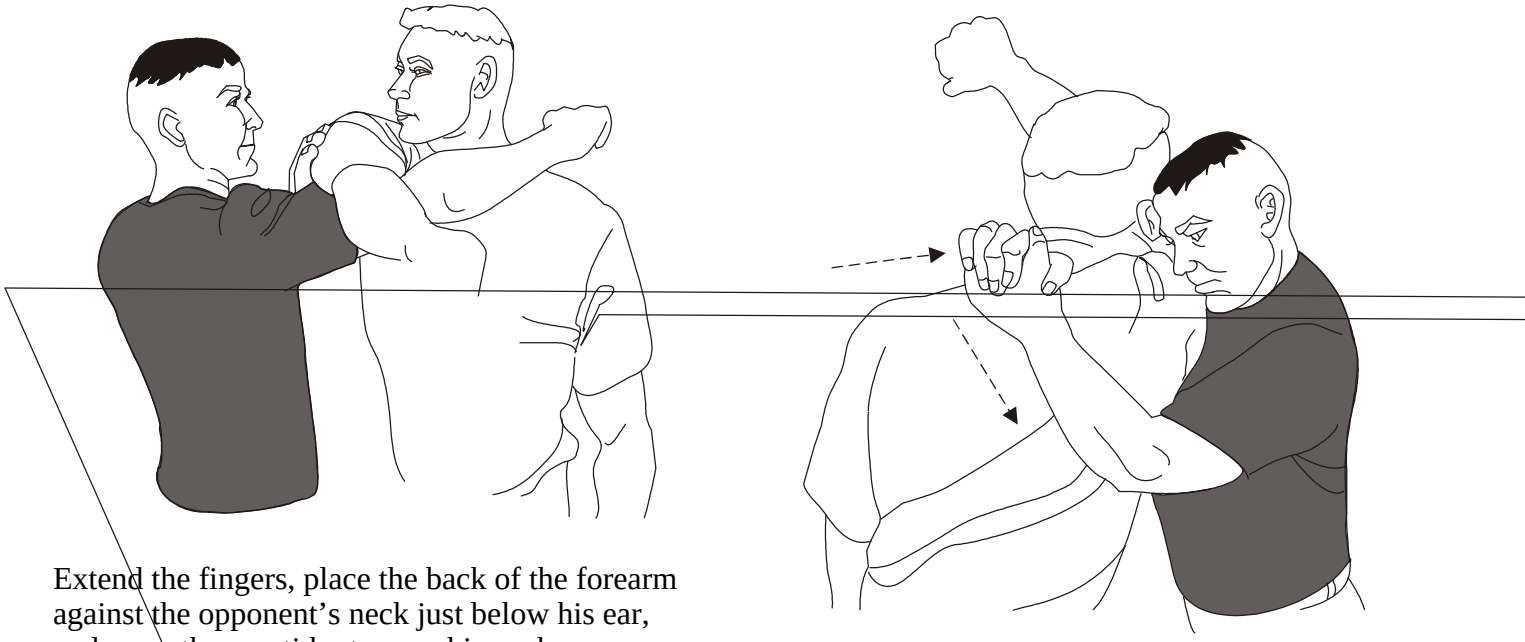
Extend the fingers, place the back of the forearm against the opponent's neck just below his ear, and press the carotid artery on his neck.

Note: If Marines are unable to place their fingers against the opponent's neck, they may use the back of the thumb or wrist.

Reach, with the left hand, around the back of the opponent's neck and clasp the hands together.

Pull the opponent toward the chest by pulling the clasped hands toward the chest.

Exert pressure on the side of the opponent's neck with the forearm.



Rear Choke

Marines execute a rear choke when they are behind the opponent, the opponent is on the ground, or when they are taking the opponent to the ground. To execute the rear choke, Marines—

Reach, with the right arm, over the opponent's right shoulder and hook the bend of the arm around his neck.

Counter to a Rear Headlock

Marines use a counter to a rear headlock when the opponent approaches from the rear and puts his right arm around the Marine's neck, bends the Marine forward, and locks the Marine's head against his hip. To execute the counter to the rear headlock, Marines—

Grasp the opponent's wrist and forearm with the right hand and pull down to clear the airway. Once the airway is clear, tuck the chin to protect the airway and to prevent the opponent from re-applying the choke.

Reach over the opponent's right shoulder with the left arm.

Grab any part of the opponent's face (chin, nose, eyes) and pull back while rising to a standing position.

Execute, with the right hand, a hammer fist strike to the opponent's exposed throat.

Counter to a Front Bear Hug

Marines execute a counter to a front bear hug when the opponent approaches from the front and puts both of his arms around the Marine's body, trapping the Marine's arms to the sides. To execute the counter to a front bear hug, Marines—

Step forward and to the left with the left foot at a 45-degree angle to the outside of the opponent's right leg, keeping the left leg bent.

Push the opponent over and roll him off to the right side.

Maintain control of the opponent's hooked arm and move to a kneeling position.

Move to a standing position while maintaining pressure on the opponent's arm and using the knee to apply pressure against the opponent's elbow.

3. Ground Fighting Chokes

WARNING

During training, never execute a choke at full force or full speed. Never hold a choke for more than 5 seconds.

The priority in ground fighting is for Marines to get back on their feet as quickly as possible. Sometimes, Marines can quickly end a ground fight by executing a choke on the opponent. When performed correctly, a choke can render an opponent unconscious in as little as 8 to 13 seconds. Chokes are easily performed regardless of size or gender. The chokes performed during ground fighting are the same as those performed while standing (see chap. 6).

Ground Fighting Front Choke

The ground fighting front choke is a blood choke performed most effectively from the mount position. The front choke employs the opponent's lapels or collar to execute the choke. To execute the ground fighting front choke, Marines—

Grab the opponent's right lapel with the right hand, making certain that the knuckles or the back of the hand are against the carotid artery on the right side of the opponent's neck.

Keep the right hand pressed against the opponent's carotid artery, reach under the right arm with the left hand, and grab the opponent's left lapel, forming an X with the wrists.

Keep the right hand pressed against the opponent's carotid artery and pull the opponent's left lapel to the left with the left hand.

Ground Fighting Side Choke

The ground fighting side choke is a blood choke performed from the mount position. The ground fighting side choke is particularly effective when the opponent raises his arms and places them on the Marine's chest or throat. To execute the ground fighting side choke, Marines—

Use the left hand to parry the opponent's right arm inboard (to the inside of the opponent's reach). Bring the right arm underneath the opponent's arm and up around the front of his neck.

Keep the fingers extended, place the back of the forearm against the opponent's neck just below his ear and press the carotid artery on his neck. Depending on the Marine's or the opponent's body configuration, the back of the thumb or wrist may press against the opponent's neck.

Use the left hand to reach around the back of the opponent's neck and clasp the hands together.

Pull the opponent toward the chest. Use the forearm to exert pressure on the side of his neck. This is done by pulling the clasped hands toward the chest.

Ground Fighting Rear Choke

The ground fighting rear choke is a blood choke performed when Marines are behind the opponent. To execute the ground fighting rear choke, Marines—

Wrap the legs around the opponent with the left foot against the inside of his left thigh and the right foot against the inside of his right thigh.

Use the right arm to reach over the opponent's right shoulder and hook the bend of the arm around his neck.

Use the left hand to clasp both hands together.

Exert pressure with the biceps and forearms on both sides of the opponent's neck. This applies pressure to the opponent's carotid arteries. While maintaining pressure with the biceps and forearms, draw the opponent closer by drawing the right arm in. To increase the effectiveness of the

choke, lean backward by arching the back and pulling the opponent back. At the same time, push the feet against the opponent's thighs.

Figure-Four Choke

A variation of the ground fighting rear choke is the figure-four choke. The figure-four choke allows Marines to gain more leverage on the rear choke. If the rear choke cannot be secured, the figure-four variation may be applied to increase the pressure of the choke on the opponent. To execute the figure-four variation of the rear choke, Marines—

Apply the ground fighting rear choke. The chest should be against the opponent's back.

Grasp the left biceps with the right hand and place the left hand against the back of the opponent's head.

Use the left hand to push the opponent's head forward and down.

Draw the right arm in while maintaining pressure with the biceps and forearm on both sides of the opponent's neck.

Increase the effectiveness of the choke by arching backward and pushing the feet against the opponent's thighs. Continue to pull the opponent back with the right arm while exerting pressure forward with the left hand against the opponent's head.

CHAPTER 8

NONLETHAL TECHNIQUES

This chapter describes all techniques for a right-handed person. However, all techniques can be executed from either side.

In drawings, the Marine is depicted in woodland camouflage utilities; the opponent is depicted without camouflage. In photographs, the Marine is depicted in woodland camouflage utilities; the opponent is depicted in desert camouflage utilities.

The Marine Corps' involvement in military operations other than war—e.g., humanitarian, peacekeeping, or evacuation missions—has greatly increased. These missions require skills that span the spectrum of conflict and support operations within a continuum of force. But the Corps' day-to-day existence also demands a responsible use of force. Nonlethal techniques are among the skills Marines use to apply a responsible use of force.

1. Unarmed Restraints and Manipulation

Marines operate within a continuum of force, particularly in support of peacekeeping or humanitarian types of missions. In these situations, Marines must act responsibly to handle a situation without resorting to deadly force. Unarmed restraints and manipulation techniques including joint manipulation, come-alongs, and takedowns can be used to control a subject without resorting to deadly force. Marines must train to become proficient in nonlethal techniques and to respond in a responsible manner. These techniques are referred to as compliance techniques, and they are applied in the third level in the continuum of force.

WARNING

During training, never apply the techniques for unarmed restraints and manipulation at full force or full speed. Use a slow and steady pressure to avoid injury.

Compliance Techniques

Compliance techniques are unarmed restraint and manipulation techniques used to physically force a subject or opponent to comply. Compliance can be achieved through the close combat techniques of—

- Pain compliance using joint manipulation and pressure points. (Pain compliance is the initiation of pain to get compliance on the part of the subject.)
- Come-along holds.

Principles of Joint Manipulation

Joint manipulation is used to initiate pain compliance and gain control of a subject. It involves the application of pressure on the joints (elbow, wrist, shoulder, knee, ankle, and fingers). Pressure is applied in two ways:

- In the direction in which the joint will not bend. For example, joints such as the knees

and elbows only bend in one direction and when pressure is applied in the opposite direction, pain compliance can be achieved.
- Beyond the point where the joint stops naturally in its range of movement (i.e., it no longer bends).

Since each joint has a breaking point, Marines should apply slow steady pressure only until pain compliance is reached. Continued pressure will break the joint and may escalate the violence of the situation.

Joint manipulation also uses the principle of off-balancing. A subject can be better controlled when he is knocked off balance.

Wristlocks

A wristlock is a joint manipulation that can be applied in a number of ways to achieve pain compliance. The wrist rotates in a number of directions and will bend in a single direction until its movement stops naturally. In a wristlock, pressure is exerted beyond that point by bending or twisting the joint. A wristlock is executed when an opponent tries to grab Marines or is successful in grabbing Marines or their equipment. A wristlock can also be performed by Marines if they wish to initiate control of an opponent.

Basic Wristlock. A basic wristlock is executed when Marines grab the opponent's left hand with the right hand. To execute the basic wristlock, Marines—

Use the right hand to grab the opponent's left hand by placing the thumb on the back of the opponent's hand so that the Marine's knuckles are facing to the left.

Hook the fingers across the fleshy part of the opponent's palm below the thumb. The fingers are used to anchor the hand so leverage can be applied to twist and bend the joint.

Exert downward pressure with the thumb to bend the opponent's joint. Rotate the opponent's hand to the right to twist the joint.

Use the left hand to further control the opponent.

Step in to the opponent to keep the opponent's hand in close to the body to control him and provide more leverage on the wristlock.

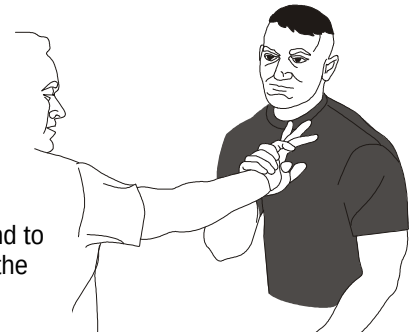
Note: When executing the basic wristlock with the left hand, the Marine grabs the opponent's hand so that the Marine's knuckles are facing to the right, and then rotates and twists the opponent's hand to the left.

Reverse Wristlock. A reverse wristlock is executed when Marines grab the opponent's right hand with the right hand. To execute the reverse wristlock, Marines—

Place the right palm on the back of the opponent's right hand and wrap the fingers across the fleshy part of his palm below his little finger.

Twist the opponent's hand to the right while stepping in to place his hand against the chest. Apply downward pressure on the opponent's hand against the chest. Leave the opponent's hand on the chest to fully control the subject and to gain leverage.

Lean forward to use body weight to add additional pressure to the joint.



Use the left hand to further control the opponent.

Two-Handed Wristlock. Both hands can be used in the wristlock to maximize the leverage and pressure needed to bend and twist the joint. To execute the two-handed wristlock, Marines—

Place both thumbs on the back of the opponent's hand, thumbs crossed.

Hook the fingers of both hands around the fleshy part of the opponent's palm on both sides of his hand.

Step into the opponent and apply pressure downward on the back of his hand to bend the joint and rotate his wrist away from the body to twist the joint.

Enhanced Pain Compliance on Wristlock. Enhanced pain compliance techniques are applied in the third and fourth levels in the continuum of force. Additional pain be applied to a wristlock by—

Adding downward pressure to the elbow with the other hand or elbow by using the fingers to pull in on the opponent's radial nerve located on the inside of the forearm. When pressure is added to the opponent's radial nerve, his direction can be controlled.

Applying pressure against the opponent's finger joint to bend it in a direction it cannot bend (i.e., splitting the fingers).

Come-Along Holds

Marines use a come-along hold to control and move an opponent.

Escort Position. A common come-along hold is the escort position. To execute the escort position, Marines—

Face the opponent. Use the left foot to step forward at a 45-degree angle. Turn to face the right side of the opponent.

Use the right hand to firmly grasp the opponent's right wrist. With the left hand, firmly grasp the opponent's right triceps.

Position the opponent's controlled arm diagonally across the torso, keeping his wrist against the right hip. The Marine should be standing to the right of and behind the opponent.

Note: This technique works well when escorting an opponent on either the right or left side. Take caution when escorting an opponent by ensuring his controlled hand is not in a position to grab the holstered weapon. The preferred escort position is from the Marine's left side, so that the opponent is kept further away from the weapon.

Wristlock Come-Along. To execute the wristlock come-along, Marines—

Use the left hand to execute a basic wristlock. Incorporate the right hand in a two-handed wristlock for more control.

Maintain pressure on the opponent's wrist with the right hand, step forward, and pivot around to stand next to the opponent.

Release the left hand, quickly reach under the opponent's arm from behind, and grab his hand.

Use the left hand and apply downward pressure on the opponent's wrist.

Controlling Technique. The following controlling technique is used when an opponent grabs the Marine's wrist. To execute the technique, Marines—

Trap the opponent's hand with the palm of the other hand.

Rotate the opponent's trapped hand up and on his forearm while maintaining downward pressure on his trapped hand.

Apply downward pressure with both hands until the opponent is taken to the ground.

Armbars

An armbar is a joint manipulation in which pressure is applied on a locked elbow, just above the joint, in the direction the joint will not bend. An armbar has to be locked in quickly, but still requires a slow, steady pressure to gain compliance.

Basic Armbar. To execute a basic armbar, Marines—

Use the right hand to grab the opponent's right wrist.

Bring the left hand down on or above the opponent's elbow joint. To gain additional leverage, pivot to face the opponent.

Use the left hand to apply downward pressure on or above the opponent's elbow joint while pulling up on his wrist.

Armbar from a Wristlock. To execute an armbar from a wristlock, Marines—

Use the right hand to grab the opponent's right hand and execute a reverse wristlock.

Bring the left hand down on or above the opponent's elbow joint.

Use the left hand to apply downward pressure on or above the opponent's elbow joint while pulling up on his wrist.

Takedowns

A takedown is used to bring an opponent to the ground to further control him.

Takedown From a Wristlock Come-Along. To take the opponent to the ground from a wristlock come-along, Marines—

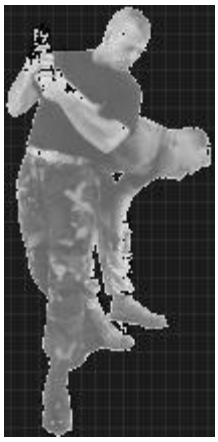
Use the right foot to push down on the opponent's calf or Achilles tendon.

Maintain control of the opponent's wrist and elbow and apply a slow, steady pressure to bring him to the ground.

Armbar to a Takedown. This technique is used to take a noncompliant opponent to the ground from an armbar. To execute the armbar takedown, Marines—

Use the right hand to execute a reverse wristlock.

Bring the left hand or forearm down on or above the opponent's elbow joint.



Pivot so the back is facing the opponent and, at the same time, lift the left elbow and slide the body so it is against the opponent, placing the armpit high above the opponent's elbow joint.

Lean back, placing the body weight on the opponent's arm until he complies or is taken to the ground.

Note: This technique may break the opponent's arm. Therefore, this technique should not be employed if the objective is a nonlethal takedown.

Wristlock Takedown. This technique is used to take a noncompliant opponent to the ground from a basic wristlock and to put him in a position where he can be handcuffed, if necessary. To execute the takedown, Marines—

Use the right hand to execute a basic wristlock. Incorporate the left hand in a two-handed wristlock.

Apply downward pressure on the wristlock, pivot on the ball of the right foot, and quickly turn to the right to take the opponent to the ground.

Continue to apply pressure on the wrist joint as the opponent lands on his back with his arm straight in the air.

Slide the left foot under the opponent's back, underneath his armpit.

Apply pressure with the knee against the opponent's triceps while pulling back on his arm.

Continue applying pressure with the knee on the opponent's arm. Pivot and step around the opponent's arm to roll him on his stomach.

Kneel down with one knee on the opponent's back. The other knee is placed on the opponent's neck and shoulder on either side of his arm. Apply inward pressure with the knees to lock his arm in place.

Tell the opponent to put his other hand in the middle of his back. Bring the opponent's controlled hand to the center of his back.

Escort Position Takedown. This technique can be used to control a noncompliant opponent from the escort position. To execute the escort position takedown, Marines—

Lock the opponent's arm straight across the body while rotating his wrist away from the body.

Use the left hand or forearm and apply downward pressure above the opponent's elbow where the triceps meet.

Step back with the right foot and, keeping the opponent's hand controlled against the hip, pivot to the right while continuing to apply downward pressure on his arm to bring him to the ground.

Note: This technique works well when escorting a subject on the Marine's right or left side. When taking down a subject from the right side, step back and pivot to the left.

2. Nonlethal Baton

A baton or nightstick can be an effective compliance tool when used correctly. Batons can be used defensively (blocking), offensively (striking), and as a restraining device when needed. In the fourth level of the continuum of force (assaultive [bodily harm]), defensive tactics include baton or nightstick blocks and blows. Blows to the head or other bony parts of the body are considered deadly force. When deadly force is not authorized, Marines must be able to employ blocks, strikes, and restraints with the baton with the minimum of force.

Grips

One-Handed Grip. To execute the one-handed grip, Marines—

Use the right hand to grasp the lower end of the baton, about 2 inches from the end.

Wrap the thumb and index finger around the baton so they are touching one another. The grip on the baton should be firm, but natural.

Two-Handed Grip. To execute the two-handed grip, Marines—

Use the right hand to grasp the lower end of the baton, about 2 inches from the end. Wrap the thumb and index finger around the baton so they touch one another.

Use the left hand to grasp the upper end of the baton, palm down, about 2 inches from the end. The hands should be approximately 10 to 12 inches apart.

Stance and Method of Carry

The basic warrior stance serves as the foundation for initiating nonlethal baton techniques. The method of carry provides effective defensive positions with a wide range of options to control a combative opponent.

One-Handed Carry. To execute the one-handed carry, Marines—

Grip the baton using the one-handed grip.

Elevate the baton, with the gripping hand at a level between the belt and shoulder.

Keep the left hand in the position of the basic warrior stance.

Two-Handed Carry. This carry is effective for blocks. To execute the two-handed carry, Marines—

Grip the baton using the two-handed grip.

Elevate the baton, with the left hand higher than the right hand.

Orient the weapon toward the subject.

Movement

In a nonlethal confrontation, movement may be made to create distance between Marines and the opponent or to close the gap to control him. When facing an opponent, Marines move in a 45-degree angle to either side of the opponent. Moving at a 45-degree angle is the best way to both avoid an opponent's strike and to put Marines in the best position to control the opponent.

Blocking Techniques

One-handed blocks are used when carrying the baton in the one-handed carry. The same one-handed blocks used in combative stick techniques (see page 3-6) apply in nonlethal baton engagements. The blocks include blocks for a vertical strike, a forward strike, and a reverse strike. Because the baton is often carried with two hands, there are also two-handed blocks that are effectively used from this carry. Two-handed blocks are discussed in the following subparagraphs.

High Block. Marines execute a high block to deter a downward vertical attack directed at the head and shoulders. To execute the high block, Marines—

Raise the baton up to a level even with or above the head. The baton should be in a horizontal position to block the blow. The fingers of the left hand should be open and behind the baton.

Place the baton perpendicular to the opponent's striking surface to absorb the impact of the blow.

Bend the elbows slightly to help absorb the impact of the blow. The arms should give with the strike of the blow.

Low Block. Marines execute a low block to deter an upward vertical attack directed at the abdomen, groin, or torso. The opponent's blow can be delivered by a foot, knee, or fist. To execute the low block, Marines—

Lower the baton to a level even with or below the groin. The baton should be in a horizontal position to block the blow. The fingers of the left hand should be open and behind the baton.

Place the baton perpendicular to the opponent's striking surface to absorb the impact of the blow.

Bend the elbows slightly to help absorb the impact of the blow. The arms should give with the strike of the blow.

Right Block. Marines execute a right block to deter an attack directed at the head, neck, flank, or hip. The opponent's blow can be delivered by a foot, knee, fist, or elbow. To execute the right block, Marines—

Thrust the baton in a vertical position to the right side.

Pivot to the right by stepping with the left foot and pivoting off the ball of the right foot. Rotate the hips and shoulders into the direction of the block. The fingers of the left hand should be open and behind the baton.

Place the baton perpendicular to the opponent's striking surface to absorb the impact of the blow.

Bend the elbows slightly to help absorb the impact of the blow. The arms should give with the strike of the blow.

Left Block. Marines execute a left block to deter an attack directed at the head, neck, flank, or hip. The opponent's blow can be delivered by a foot, knee, fist, or elbow. To execute the left block, Marines—

Thrust the baton in a vertical position to the left side.

Pivot to the left by stepping with the right foot and pivoting off the ball of the left foot. Rotate the hips and shoulders into the direction of the block. The fingers of the left hand should be open and behind the baton.

Place the baton perpendicular to the opponent's striking surface to absorb the impact of the blow.

Bend the elbows slightly to help absorb the impact of the blow. The arms should give with the strike of the blow.

Middle Block. Marines execute either a left or right block to deter an attack directed at the face, throat, chest, or abdomen. To execute the middle block, Marines—

Thrust the baton in a vertical position straight out in front of the body. The fingers of the left hand should be open and behind the baton.

Place the baton perpendicular to the opponent's striking surface to absorb the impact of the blow. The baton should be held with the left hand forward of the right.

Bend the elbows slightly to help absorb the impact of the blow. The arms should give with the strike of the blow.

Restraining Technique

The strong-side armlock is used to restrain an opponent who is not compliant. To execute the strong-side armlock, Marines—

Use the right hand to run the baton up under the opponent's left armpit, parallel to the ground.

Use the right foot to step forward at a 45-degree angle to the left side of the opponent. The baton is across his forearm.

Use the right hand to drive the baton forward and up so the action bends the opponent's arm behind his back. At the same time, continue moving around him to get behind him.

Place the baton on the opponent's forearm with the thumb and/or fingers and apply pressure to his forearm. At the same time, grasp the other end of the baton with the left hand.

Pull up on the low end of the baton with the right hand. At the same time, push down on the top end of the baton with the left forearm, reaching around with the left hand to grasp the opponent's biceps or shoulder.

Continue exerting downward pressure with the left forearm while pulling back on the opponent's biceps with the left hand. This places the opponent in a position where he is controlled and can be moved.

Apply pressure with the foot against the bend in the opponent's leg above his calf. This lowers the opponent to the ground rather than throwing him to the ground and risking severe injury.

Striking Target Areas

Marines must avoid striking an opponent in the head, neck, or other bony parts with the baton because this is considered deadly force and can lead to serious bodily injury or death. Instead, the legs, arms, and buttocks are target areas that are considered nonlethal.

Legs. Primary targets are the thighs and lower legs. Avoid striking the knee and ankle joints because this can cause permanent damage.

Arms. Primary targets are the upper arms. Avoid striking the shoulder and elbow and wrist joints because this can cause permanent damage.

Buttocks. Primary targets are the buttocks. Avoid striking any other part of the torso, including the chest, rib cage, spine, tail bone, and groin because strikes to these areas can cause permanent damage or death.

One-Handed Striking Techniques

One-Handed Forward Strike. A forward strike follows either a horizontal line or a downward diagonal line using a forehand stroke. To execute the one-handed forward strike, Marines—

Stand facing the opponent with the baton carried in a one-handed carry.

Place the right hand palm up, swing the baton from right to left, and make contact with the opponent.

One-Handed Reverse Strike. A reverse strike follows either a horizontal line or a downward diagonal line using a backhand stroke. To execute the one-handed reverse strike, Marines—

Stand facing the opponent with the baton carried in a one-handed carry.

Bend the right arm and cross the arm to the left side of the body. The baton should be close to or over the left shoulder.

Place the right hand palm down, swing the baton from left to right, and make contact with the opponent.

Two-Handed Striking Techniques

Two-Handed Forward Strike. This strike is an effective follow-up to a middle block or left block. To execute the two-handed forward strike, Marines—

Pull back with the left hand while driving the right hand forward toward the opponent. The baton should be horizontal to the ground. Power is generated by stepping forward with the right foot and rotating the right hip and shoulder into the strike.

Contact the opponent with the end of the baton.

Two-Handed Reverse Strike. This strike is an effective follow-up to a middle block or left block. To execute the two-handed reverse strike, Marines—

Pull back with the right hand while driving the left hand forward toward the opponent. The baton should be horizontal to the ground. Power is generated by stepping forward slightly with the left foot and rotating the left hip and shoulder into the strike.

Contact the subject with the end of the baton.

Front Jab. This strike is effective for countering a frontal attack. It can also be executed as a quick poke to keep a subject away. To execute the front jab, Marines thrust both hands forward in a quick jab. The baton is held either horizontal to the ground or at a slight downward angle.

Rear Jab. This strike is effective for countering a bear hug from the rear. To execute the rear jab, Marines thrust both hands rearward in a quick jab. The baton is held either horizontal to the ground or at a slight downward angle.

APPENDIX A

PUGIL STICK TRAINING

A pugil stick is a training device used to simulate a rifle bayonet so that effective, but safe, training can be conducted to build proficiency of rifle bayonet techniques. Pugil stick training builds on the techniques used to throw punches. Pugil stick training is the only "full contact" training provided to Marines in the Close Combat Program. Pugil stick training teaches Marines to function when faced with stress and violence, and it prepares them to deliver a blow and take a blow. It also provides them with the physical and mental skills vital to success on the battlefield.

1. Pugil Stick Training

Design

A pugil stick consists of a stick wrapped in padding at both ends that can be gripped like a rifle. The pugil stick is approximately the same weight and length of an unloaded rifle with a bayonet attached.

Holding the Pugil Stick

The pugil stick is held in the same manner as the service rifle. All movements come from the basic warrior stance. To hold the pugil stick correctly, Marines—

- Use the right hand to grasp the lower end of the pugil stick overhanded.
- Use the left hand to grasp the upper end of the pugil stick underhanded.
- Use the right forearm to lock the lower end of the pugil stick against the hip.
- Orient the blade end of the pugil stick toward the opponent.

Safety Equipment

The following safety equipment must be worn during any pugil stick bout.

Groin Protection. Groin protection protects the groin from an accidental blow. It should be pulled high around the waist to protect the groin area, with the concave portion against the body.

Flak Jacket. The flak jacket provides protection to the body. It is worn completely fastened.

Neck Roll. The neck roll prevents whiplash if Marines receive a blow to the head. The neck roll further supports the head and protects the neck from blows. The neck roll is worn above the flak jacket and below the helmet. The tied end of the neck roll faces the front.

Helmet. A regulation football helmet protects the face and head. The helmet must fit snugly and the chin straps must be adjusted and snapped.

Mouthpiece. The mouthpiece is worn on the upper teeth to protect the teeth.

Gloves. Marines wear gloves to protect the hands if pugil sticks do not have gloves built-in.

Pugil Stick Screening

Prior to pugil stick training, instructors must ask participating Marines the following questions. If a Marine answers "yes" to any question, he must see the corpsman or a competent medical authority who evaluates him and determines whether or not the he can participate in the training.

- Are you on light duty?
- Are you restricted to running shoes by a corpsman or a doctor?
- Have you fought in a pugil stick bout within the last 7 days?
- Have you received a blow to the head within the last 7 days?
- Have you had a concussion within the last 6 months?
- Have you had dental surgery within the last 24 hours?
- Do you have stitches or staples on your body?
- Have you had a shoulder or head injury within the last 5 years?
- Are you taking a prescription drug?
- Do you have an ear infection or current sinus infection?
- Have you had a broken bone within the last 6 months?

Safety Personnel

The following safety personnel are required to conduct pugil stick training:

- One close combat instructor must officiate the bout.
- One close combat instructor trainer, commissioned officer, or staff noncommissioned officer must be in the training area to serve as range safety officer.
- One corpsman must be in the training area.

Training Area

To prevent injury, Marines train on areas with soft footing (i.e., sand or grass). Training mats are not recommended because feet can stick to the mats, prohibiting movement or causing joint injuries by twisting a knee. Bouts should not take place on a hard surface area; e.g., a flight deck or parking lot. A boxing ring may be used to conduct pugil stick bouts; ring dimensions can vary as long as there is ample room to execute the techniques in the training area.

Second Impact Syndrome

Second Impact Syndrome occurs when a second blow to the head produces a second concussion that occurs within 1 week following a previous concussion (before recovery from the first concussion). Second Impact Syndrome causes rapid brain swelling and can cause death. Therefore, there must be 7 days between pugil stick bouts to reduce the risk of severe injury resulting from Second Impact Syndrome. The 7 day separation between pugil stick bouts significantly reduces the possibility of injury, particularly in someone who may have suffered a brain injury or concussion but shows no symptoms.

Any Marine who experiences headaches or the following symptoms after training must be examined by appropriate medical personnel:

- Blurred vision.
- Ringing in the ears.
- Dilation of the pupils.
- Slurred speech.
- Bleeding from ears or mouth.
- Swelling in head or neck area.
- Any unnatural discoloration in head or neck area.

The Marine should not be allowed to participate in pugil stick training or any other activity where a heavy blow might be sustained for a minimum of 7 days after the headache or other symptoms have subsided.

Safety Measures

The following safety measures must be followed:

- Gear must be worn properly throughout training.
- Contact lenses or glasses will not be worn.
- False teeth will be removed from the mouth.
- Nothing will be worn around the neck except the neck roll.

- Competition among groups of Marines is authorized as long as it does not overshadow training objectives or compromise safety procedures.
- Safety and proper techniques are paramount.
- Safety is more important than competition.

2. General Rules and Regulations Governing Pugil Stick Bouts

Instructors and Support Personnel Requirements

At a minimum, one close combat instructor observes a pugil stick bout. For safety purposes, it is better to have two instructors judging a bout because each instructor can fully observe each of the fighters. The best position for observation is to the right of a fighter. This allows the instructor to see the fighter's facial expression and body movement. The instructor's position must not interfere with the fight.

In addition, one commissioned or staff noncommissioned officer (to serve as range safety officer) and one corpsman will be in the training area.

Prior to the Bout

Prior to the bout, Marines—

- Are paired according to height, weight, and gender.
- Wear the proper safety equipment.

Once Marines have properly donned the safety equipment, they wait for instructions from the close combat instructor. On the command of the close combat instructor, a pair of Marines will enter the ring. Once in the ring, the close combat instructor inspects each Marine for the proper safety equipment.

Note: There should be enough gear so that when two Marines are training, two other Marines can be donning safety equipment for the next bout.

During the Bout

The bout begins when the close combat instructor blows the whistle. All strikes are directed above the waist. Upon hearing a whistle blast, all fighting immediately ceases.

Stopping a Bout

There are two reasons for stopping a bout: delivery of a scoring blow or an unsafe condition. The close combat instructor trainer, close combat instructor, or the range safety officer may stop the bout at any time an unsafe condition is observed.

Scoring Blow. A scoring blow is an offensive technique delivered to a vulnerable area of an opponent with sufficient force and precision to be considered as a disabling or killing blow. Scoring blows are not judged solely on the degree of force with which a blow is delivered, but on the accuracy and techniques employed. A scoring blow is defined as—

- A straight thrust with the blade end of the weapon (red end of the pugil stick) to the opponent's face mask or throat.
- A slash to the side of the opponent's helmet (below the ear) or neck with the red end of the pugil stick.
- A heavy blow to the opponent's head with an authorized technique (i.e., buttstroke, smash) using the butt (black end) of the pugil stick.

When a scoring blow is delivered, the close combat instructor blows the whistle to stop the bout.

Unsafe Condition. The bout will be stopped as soon as an unsafe condition exists. An unsafe condition exists when a Marine is unable to defend himself, loses his balance and falls down on one or two knees or falls down completely, shows instability (e.g., buckling at the knees), loses muscular tension in his neck and his head snaps back or to one side, or appears disoriented. An unsafe

condition also exists if a Marine lets go of one end of the pugil stick, the equipment (e.g., helmet, neck roll) falls off, or a Marine fails to use the proper techniques.

If any of these conditions occur—

- The close combat instructor trainer, close combat instructor, range safety officer, or anyone supervising training stops the bout and separates the two Marines.
- The corpsman evaluates the possibly injured Marine to determine if the fight can continue. The corpsman—
  - Ensures that he is alert and responsive, both verbally and physically.
  - Talks to him to see if he is coherent.
  - Makes certain he comprehends and replies to verbal questions.
  - Makes certain his speech is not slurred.
  - Checks his physical signs.
  - Ensures his eyes are focused and not dazed or glazed.
  - Ensures his legs are not wobbly or shaky.

The pugil stick is not used as a baseball bat. The use of unauthorized techniques will result in expulsion from the bout. Only techniques taught in bayonet training are authorized. These techniques include—

- Straight thrust.
- Buttstroke (horizontal and vertical).
- Smash.
- Slash.
- Parry.
- Blocks (low, high, left, right).

After the Bout

A third whistle blast is used prior to identifying the Marine who delivered the killing blow.

A fourth whistle blast is used prior to demonstrating the killing technique used by the Marine who won the bout.

3. Directions for Making Pugil Sticks

Close combat instructor trainers are taught to make pugil sticks to standard specifications at school. It is recommended that all pugil sticks be made under the supervision of a close combat instructor trainer. Until the Marine Corps acquires a standardized pugil stick that units can order through the supply system, instructors use the following information and instructions to make pugil sticks locally.

Supplies

The following supplies are needed to make one pugil stick:

- One 45" by 2" circular, oak, wood dowel.
- Four 9" wide by 27" long foam pad pieces to make two inner handguards of double thickness.
- Four 11" wide by 19" long foam pad pieces to make two outer handguards of double thickness.
- Canvas material to cover inner and outer handguards.
- One foam pad cut 1/4" thick by 7" wide by 13" long to make the centerguard.
- One 8" wide by 14"long piece of canvas material to make a pugil stick sock.
- Canvas material to make two pugil stick end caps. Ideally, two different color fabrics should be used to simulate the bayonet and buttstock ends of a rifle. Common colors for end caps are black and red. Each end cap is a different color to help the officiating certified close combat instructor determine the scoring blow during the pugil stick bout.
- Two 1/4" thick by 11" wide by 54" long foam pad pieces to make two ends.
- Two foam pads cut 1/4" thick by 3" wide by 14 1/2" long to make two end plug inserts.
- One can of 3M Photo Mount™ spray adhesive (NSN 8040-01-120-4009)to adhere foam padding to the stick. (Spray adhesive is available from self-service.)
- One roll of duct tape or riggers tape (NSN 7510-00-266-5016) to protect foam pad and

canvas from wear and to reinforce gluing action of spray adhesive. (Duct tape or riggers tape is available from self-service.)
- One roll para-cord or 5-50 cord to tie both the inner and outer handguards together.
- One roll of thread strong enough to sew canvas material together.
- Sixteen grommets, one for each of the four corners of the inner and outer handguards.
- One foam sleeping mat (NSN 8465-01-109-3369). Use unserviceable foam sleeping mats obtained from Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office.

Tools

The following tools are needed to make a pugil stick:

- Tape measure, ruler, or yardstick.
- Scissors.
- Grommet machine.
- Knife.
- Sewing machine.

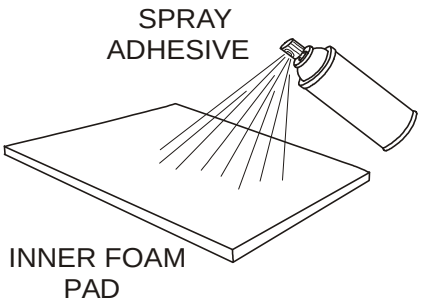
Directions

To make a pugil stick, Marines perform the following steps.

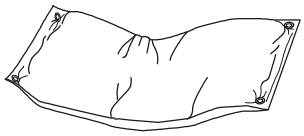
Preparing Materials

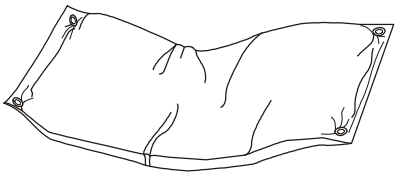
Step 1. Cut foam sleeping mat into the dimensions listed above. Cut mats to double thickness.

Step 2. Use spray adhesive to adhere the two 9" by 27" pieces of foam together. Use the spray adhesive to adhere the two 11" by 19" pieces of foam together. Let adhesive dry before using the double-thick foam for handguards.



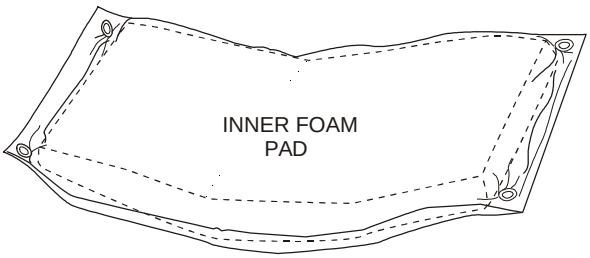
Step 3. Cut canvas material to make two coverings for the inner handguards. Cut material to make two coverings for the outer handguards. Two inner handguards and two outer handguards are required for each pugil stick.





Step 4. Use a sewing machine to make a sleeve out of the 9" by 27" canvas. Sew down three sides. Insert foam pad inside the canvas sleeve and then sew down the fourth side. Use the grommet machine to create holes reinforced with metal grommets in each of the four corners. Once finished, the inner handguards are complete.

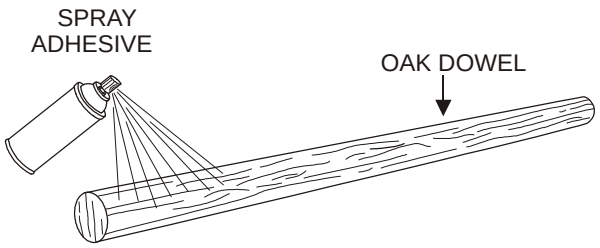
Note: It is recommended that the Fabric Repair Shop be used to sew canvas sleeves and apply grommets.



Step 5. Repeat step 4 to make the other inner handguard and both outer handguards.

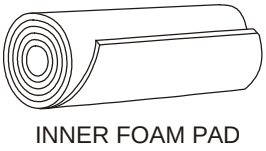
Constructing Ends, End Plugs, and End Caps

Step 1. Apply spray adhesive on approximately 8 inches of one end of the dowel. This adhesive serves to glue the foam pad to the wooden dowel.

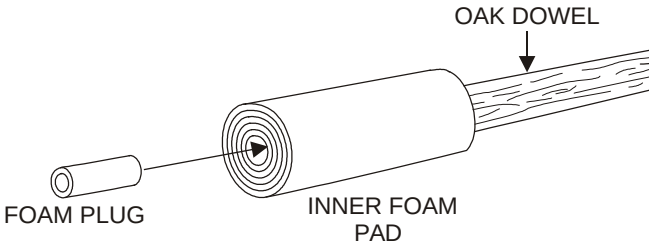


Step 2. Apply spray adhesive on one side of the 11" by 54" foam pad. This causes the foam pad to stick to itself when it is rolled around the end of the wooden dowel. Ensure 3 inches of the rolled foam pad extends past the wooden dowel for stability.

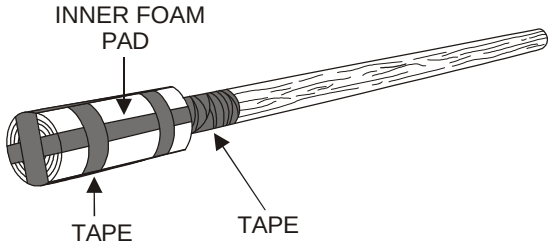
Step 3. Apply spray adhesive on one side of 3" by 14 1/2" foam pad. Roll pad into a tight cylinder.



Step 4. Apply spray adhesive on the exposed end of the dowel and fill the hole in the end with the end plug. The end plug prevents the wooden dowel from protruding beyond the edge of the rolled foam padding. This is an important safety precaution to prevent injury.



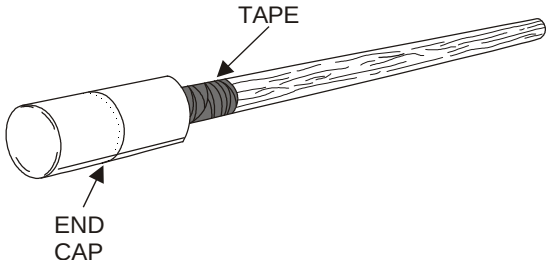
Step 5. Use duct tape or riggers tape to secure and reinforce the foam pad once the end plug is inserted in the end.



Step 6. Measure the dimensions of the ends (typically, the length of the cylinder should be 12 inches long to allow for taping). Cut and sew canvas material in the shape of a cylinder with one open end. Once complete, this becomes the end cap. The end cap is a colored sleeve that covers the rolled and taped foam pad at each end of the pugil stick.

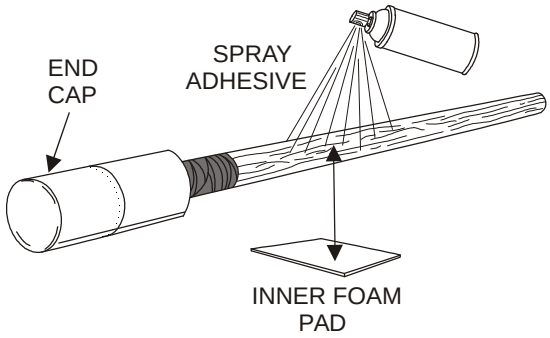
Note: It is recommended that the Fabric Repair Shop be used to make the end cap.

Step 7. Slide one of the end caps over the rolled foam pad and tape it to the dowel.

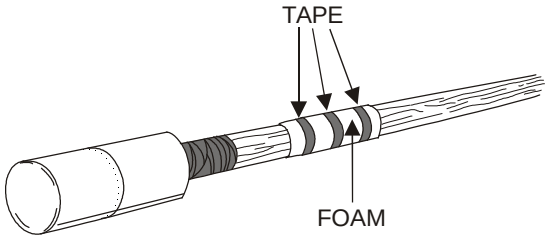


Building the Centerguard

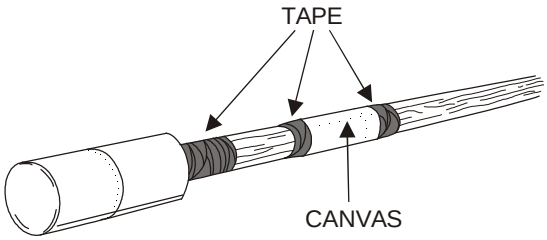
Step 1. Spray one side of the 7" by 13" foam pad with spray adhesive and wrap it tightly around the center of the dowel.



Step 2. Wrap duct tape or riggers tape around the foam pad to secure.



Step 3. Use a sewing machine to make a tubular pugil stick sock out of the 8" by 14" piece of canvas. Slide the pugil stick sock over the rolled foam pad and secure it with the duct tape or riggers tape. Duct tape or riggers tape protects the edges of the centerguard and reinforces the gluing effects of the spray adhesive.



Note: It is recommended that the Fabric Repair Shop be used to make the pugil stick sock.

Finishing the Opposite End Cap

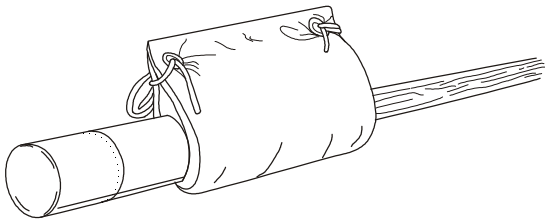
After one end cap is complete and the centerguard is finished, then repeat steps 1 through 7 in Constructing Ends, End Plugs, and End Caps for the other end of the pugil stick. Ensure that the opposite color end cap is used.

Fastening Handguards

Step 1. Place the inner handguards (longer piece) around the dowel. The inner handguard is placed on first because it protects the wrist. One inner handguard is needed for the left hand and one for the right hand.

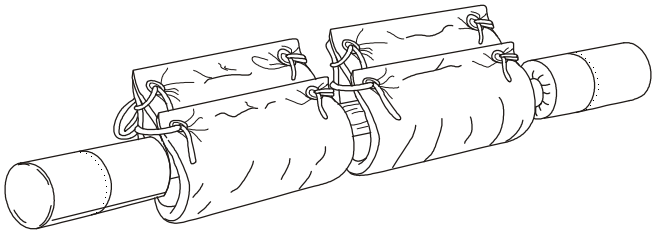
Step 2. Fold the inner handguard around the pugil stick and run the para-cord or 5-50 cord through the metal grommets.

Step 3. Tighten down the corner ends of the inner handguards by pulling on the para-cord or 5-50 cord.



Step 4. Tie off the cord with a square knot above the metal grommets.

Step 5. Place the outer handguards (shorter piece) over the inner handguards (longer piece). Repeat steps 1-4 for the other handguard. The outer handguards provide additional protection to the knuckles and fingers and provides additional stability for the inner handguards.



Serviceability Inspection

Prior to any training, all pugil sticks are inspected to ensure they are fit for use. If any of the following conditions exist, the pugil stick is unsafe and will not be used:

- Stick protrudes through the end caps.
- Frayed or worn edges exist on canvas surfaces.
- The stick can be felt through the pads or the padding is too soft.
- End caps or handguards are not securely attached.

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APPENDIX B

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING TRAINING

1. General Safety Precautions

When training close combat techniques, certain safety precautions must be adhered to to prevent injuries.

Most training should be conducted on a training area with soft footing such as a sandy or grassy area. If training mats are available, they should be used. A hard surface area is not appropriate for close combat training.

All techniques should be executed slowly at first. Marines can increase the speed of execution as they become more proficient. Marine-on-Marine training that requires contact (chokes, throws, ground fighting, and unarmed restraints and manipulation) should not be executed at full force or full speed.

If a technique is applied to the point that a Marine is uncomfortable, the Marine must “tap out.” This indicates immediate release of the pressure being applied or to immediately stop the technique. The Marine “taps out” by firmly tapping his hand several times on any part of the opponent’s body that will get his attention or by saying *stop*.

Second Impact Syndrome occurs when a second concussion develops within hours, days, or weeks following a prior concussion (and before recovery from the first concussion). Second Impact Syndrome causes rapid brain swelling and can cause death. Marines who experience headaches or other symptoms following training must be examined by appropriate medical personnel. These symptoms can include, but are not limited to, blurred vision, ringing in the ears, dialation of the pupils, bleeding from the ears or mouth, slurred speech, swelling in head or neck area, or any unnatural discoloration of head or neck. They should not be allowed to participate in pugil stick training or any other activity where a heavy blow might be sustained for a minimum of 7 days after the symptoms have subsided.

2. Safety Precautions for Individual Techniques

Falls

When training Marines to fall, they should progress from the ground, to a kneeling or squatting position, and then to a standing position. This ensures they are comfortable and understand the technique before progressing to executing falls from a higher profile. This instructional technique vastly reduces the risk of injury.

Strikes and Punches

When training Marines to strike and punch, they begin by executing the techniques "in the air." As they become more proficient, they execute strikes on equipment (when available) such as an air shield or a heavy bag. At no time should they be permitted to execute strikes on another student.

Chokes and Ground Fighting Chokes

When training Marines to execute chokes, they will not apply pressure to the opponent’s throat during training because the trachea and windpipe can be crushed. During training, Marines should practice the proper procedures for blood chokes. They should never execute air chokes. At no time during training should a choke be applied at full

force or full speed. No choke should be held for longer than 5 seconds.

Unarmed Restraints and Manipulation

When training Marines to execute unarmed restraints and manipulation techniques, they utilize slow and steady pressure. Never apply these techniques at full force or at full speed.

Pugil Stick Training

A blow to the head during training will bruise the brain. A second blow to the head can cause death. This is known as the Second Impact Syndrome. There must be 7 days between pugil stick training to prevent injury or death.