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Management 306

24 February 2014

**How to apply the four fundamentals of marksmanship using an
M16A2 rifle**

- 1- First, safety is the most important part of handling any weapon. There are 5 safety rules you must always follow when handling the M16A2 as follows: 1 Always keep the weapon unloaded when not in use. 2 Always treat the rifle as if it were loaded. 3 Never aim at anything that you do not intend to destroy. 4 Always keep your finger off the trigger until you have achieved positive identification of your target and are ready to engage. 5 Always remain aware of your target and the area around it. As a note, if you are left handed, simply reverse these instructions to fit your needs. A deflector is needed for left handed firers in order to avoid the hot shells from hitting and or burning your face and neck.
- 2- Every time you touch a weapon for the first time, make sure the weapon is on safe, and make sure that there are no rounds in the chamber.

3- There are four fundamentals of marksmanship:

- a) Steady Position
- b) Proper aim and sight picture
- c) Breathing
- d) Trigger squeeze

a) A steady position can be achieved by holding the rifle properly. The butt stock of the rifle goes in the shoulder pocket like in the picture below, and the right hand firmly holding the pistol grip as comfortable for you as it can be. Your right cheek should be pressed firmly into the upper portion of the butt stock of the weapon as shown below.



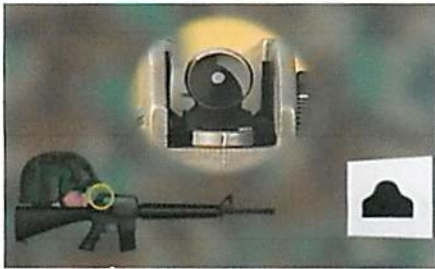
Your finger should remain off the trigger while you are getting into position.



Your left hand should firmly hold the front guards and pulling the rifle into the shoulder pocket to better stabilize it.



b) Proper aim and sight picture are very important. The rear sight and the front post of the rifle must be aligned.

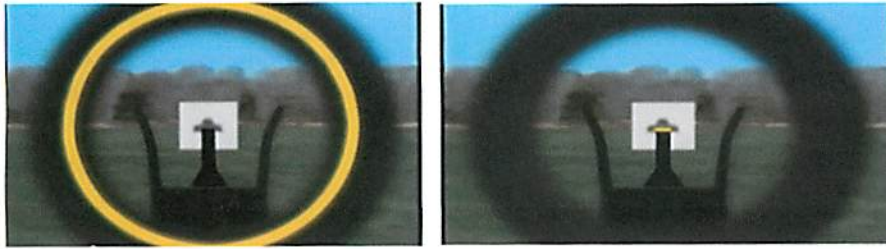


Rear sight



Front post

As you look down the rear sight through the small hole and into the front post. The rear sight should appear blurry as the front post appears clear.



Once you have reached that point, you should now aim at the center mass of your target represented by the red line right above the front post here:



c) Breathing controls your natural up and down movement of the front post as you acquire your proper sight picture showed by the above picture. You may eliminate that movement by squeezing the trigger during the natural respiratory pause as you exhale. You can do this in your head by repeating this step like so: Breath in, breath out, and fire. Breathe in, Breath out, and fire. This must be done for every shot for maximum stability and accuracy. As a note, when you are firing under pressure and breathing control cannot be achieved due to the increased rapid breathing and heart rate, just stop breathing and fire.

e) Lastly, the trigger squeeze controls the natural movement of the rifle to the left or to the right of your target. This movement can be minimized or eliminated by slowly and steadily squeezing the trigger without jerking it. If you are shooting to the left or to the right, then the problem is the way you are squeezing the trigger. Try to squeeze the trigger steadily and that should solve that issue.

Applying these four fundamentals is key to successful shooting of an M16A2 rifle and other weapons. Learn them, practice them individually then, add the other fundamentals until you can apply them all together. If you can do this every time, you are on your way to becoming an expert shooter. Also, remember to zero your weapon with the help of a professional after you have mastered the four fundamentals of marksmanship. Good luck and stay safe.

*The images were taken from the U.S. Army field manual for the M16A2. The instruction was written from my own experience and memory.