

Weapon Safety Status

CONT'D

- **Green** - “Fully Safe” – the weapon is clear, no ammunition is present the chamber is empty, and the fire selector switch is set to SAFE.
- **Amber** - “Substantially Safe” – a leader must clear and verify that the weapon’s bolt is forward, the chamber is empty, and ammunition is introduced to the weapon. This is an administrative or preparatory WSS. Leaders use amber primarily for mounted operations and during combat operations when directed to maintain a substantially safe weapon with the ability to rapidly transition and escalate to red or black, based on the situation.
- **Red** - “Marginally Safe” – the fire selector switch is set to SAFE, the magazine is locked in the magazine well, a round is in the chamber, and the bolt is locked in the forward position.
- **Black** - “Not Safe” – Indicates when the weapon is fully prepared to fire, the firer has positively identified the target, the fire selector switch is set to FIRE, and the firer’s finger is on the trigger, and the fire is in the process of engaging the target.



Weapon Control Status

A tactical method of fire control given by a leader that incorporates the tactical situation, rules of engagement for the area of operations, and expected or anticipated enemy contact. The WCS outlines the target identification conditions under which friendly elements may engage a perceived threat with direct fire.

WEAPONS CONTROL STATUS	DESCRIPTION
WEAPONS HOLD	Engage only if engaged or ordered to engage.
WEAPONS TIGHT	Engage only if target <i>is positively identified as enemy</i> .
WEAPONS FREE	Engage targets <i>not positively identified as friendly</i> .



Other Common Range Terminology

Load and make ready- “down load” magazines by at least one to two rounds to facilitate a positive lock of the magazine in the magazine well. Lock the magazine into the magazine well and cycle the action with support hand. Allow the bolt to close under its own power. Don’t ride the charging handle back into battery. *Press check optional.

Unload and show clear- Point the weapon in a safe direction, place it on safe and remove the magazine. Rotate the weapon to the right 90 degrees with the ejection port down. Slide your left hand under the ejection port, with the right hand pull the charging handle to the rear. The round in the chamber will now fall into the palm of your left hand. Hold the round in you left hand and extend your left thumb. Hold the charging handle to the rear with the right hand. The right hand will support the weight of the weapon continuously in your shoulder during the entire make safe process. With the extended left thumb reach over the weapon and depress the bolt hold open latch locking the bolt to the rear. Inspect the chamber of the weapon ensuring it’s clear and safe.

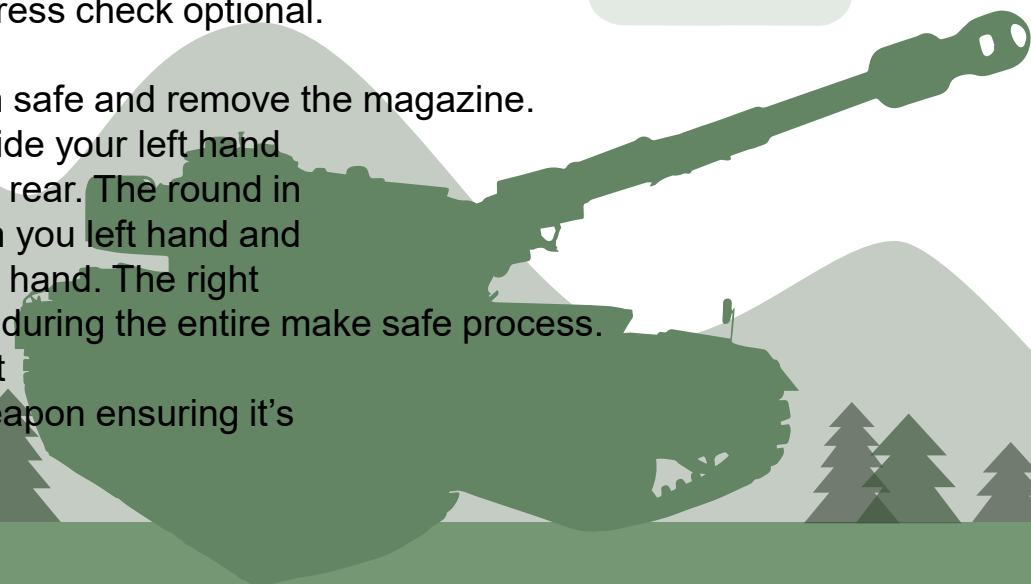
Controlled pair: two separate sight pictures

Hammered pair: one sight picture, two rounds immediately (“double tap”)

Failure drill (“Mozambique”): two center mass, one head

After action: after engagement, check for more targets and over your shoulders, status of your buddies and the rest of the world to avoid tunnel vision, build this into muscle memory!

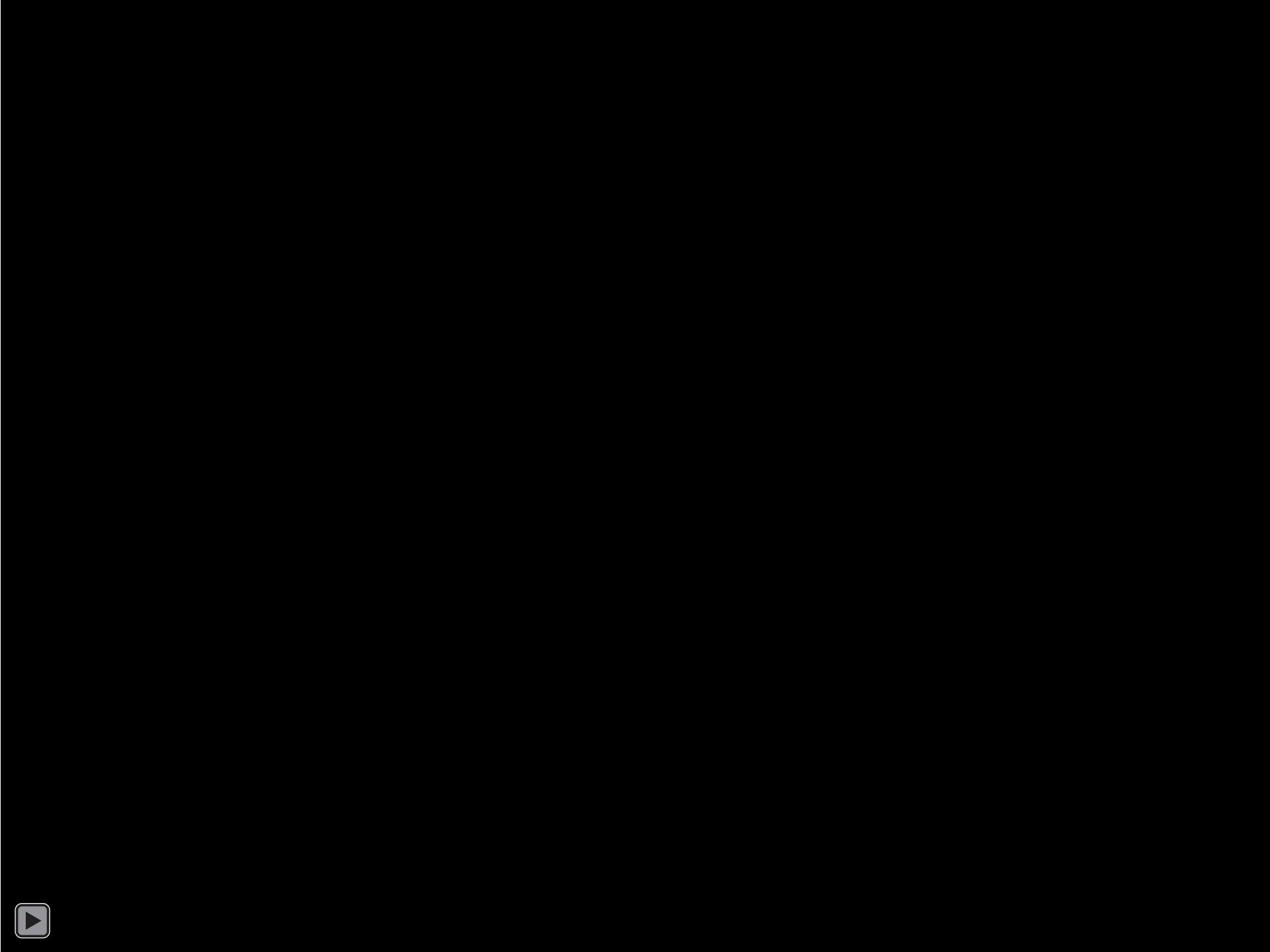
Height over bore: offset you need to shoot 7 yards and in to account for mounted optic/point of aim vs point of impact



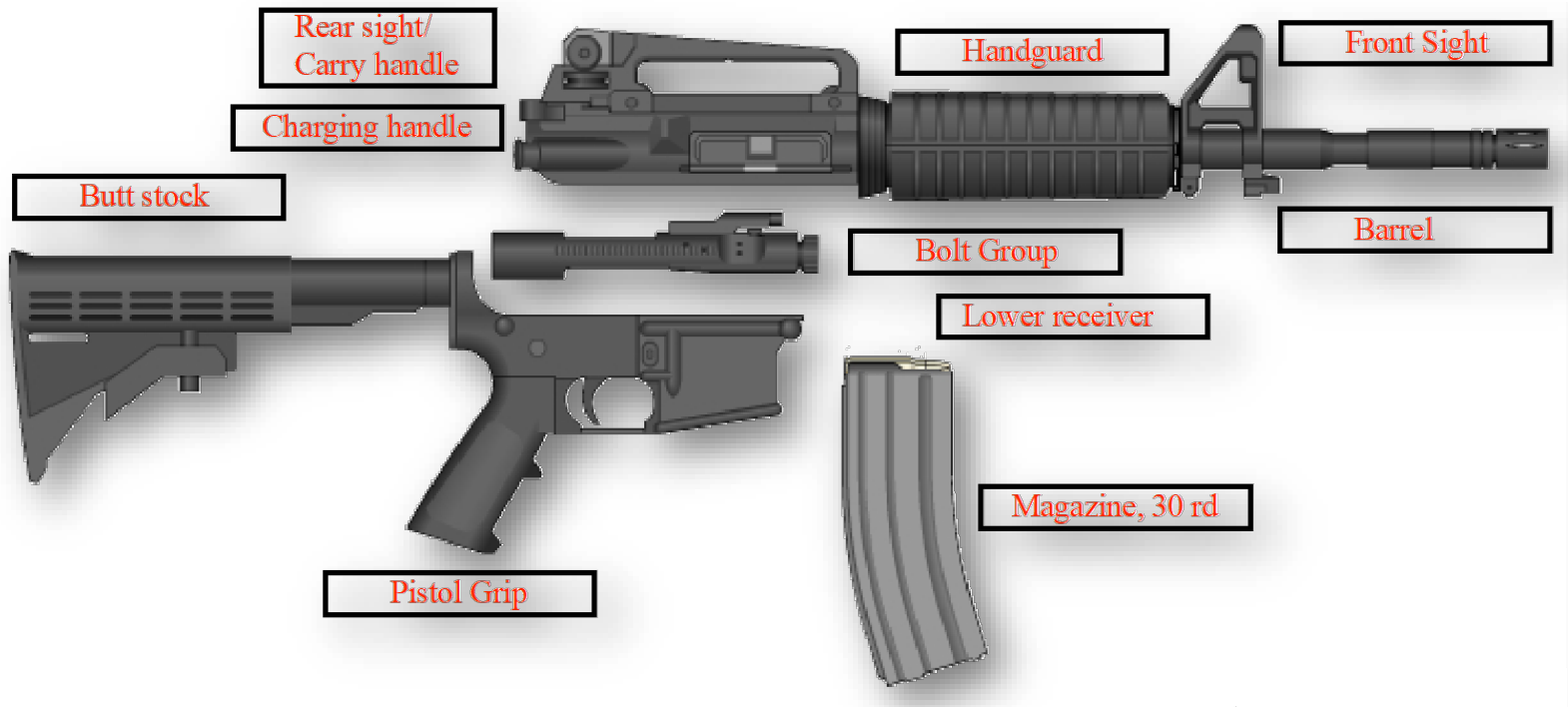
Eye Dominance

Most Soldiers have a dominant eye, one that is stronger than the other. In order to aim precisely, the Soldiers must use their “dominant eye.”





Field Strip



Cycle of Function

The cycle starts when the rifle is ready with the bolt locked to the rear, the chamber is clear, and the magazine inserted into the magazine well with at least one cartridge. From this state, the cycle executes the sequential phases of the cycle of functioning to fire a round and prepare the weapon for the next round. The phases of the cycle of function in order are:

- Feeding
- Chambering
- Locking
- Firing
- Unlocking
- Extracting
- Ejecting
- Cocking



Shot Process

The **shot process** is the basic outline of an individual engagement sequence all firers consider during an engagement, regardless of the weapon employed. The shot process formulates all decisions, calculations, and actions that lead to taking the shot. The shot process may be interrupted at any point before the sear disengaging and firing the weapon should the situation change. The shot process has three distinct phases:

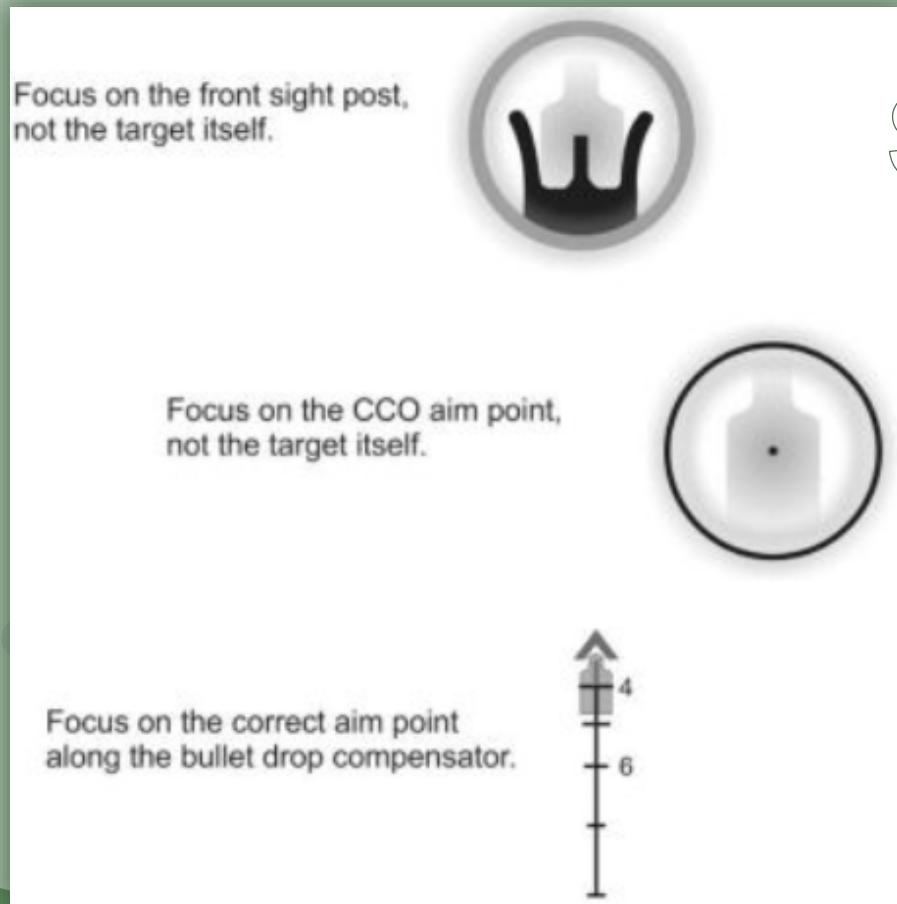
Pre-shot	Position
	Natural Point of Aim
	Sight Alignment / Picture
	Hold
Shot	Refine Aim
	Breathing Control
	Trigger Control
Post-shot	Follow-through
	Recoil management
	Call the Shot
	Evaluate

Natural Point of Aim

The point where the barrel naturally orients when the shooter's muscles are relaxed and support is achieved. The natural point of aim is built upon the following principles:

- The closer the natural point of aim is to the target, the less muscle support required.
- The more stable the position, the more resistant to recoil it is.
- More of the shooter's body on the ground equals a more stable position.
- More of the shooter's body on the ground equals less mobility for the shooter.

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Sight Alignment

Relationship between the aiming device and the firer's eye.

- Maintained by using **consistent cheek weld and head placement.**
- **Iron sight**

Relationship of front sight, rear sight, and firer's eye
Maintain by keeping focus on the top of the front sight.

➤ Optics

Relationship between the reticle and the firer's eye.
Maintain by ensuring full, centered field of view (no shadow in magnified optics)

➤ Pointers/Illuminators/Lasers

Relationship between the firer's eye, the night vision device placement and focus, and the laser aiming point on the target.

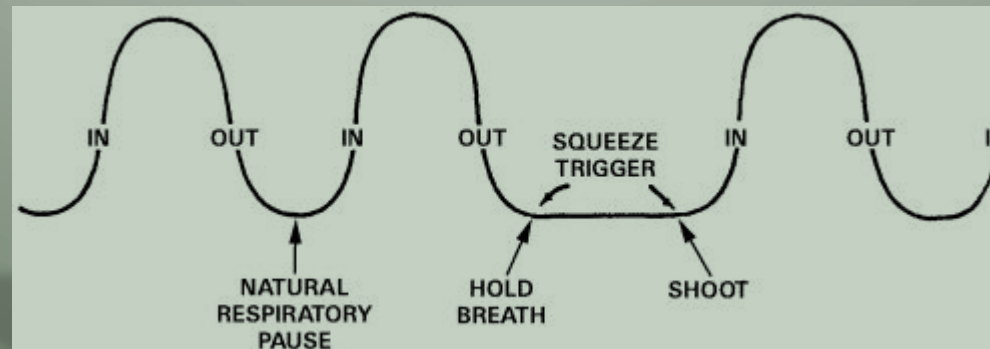
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Breathing Control

During the shot process, the shooter controls their breathing to reduce the amount of movement of the weapon

- Breathing induces unavoidable body movement that contribute to wobble or the arc of movement (AM) during the shot process.
- Soldiers cannot completely eliminate all motion during the shot process, but they can significantly reduce its effects through practice and technique. Firing on the natural pause is a common technique used during grouping and zeroing.
- Breathe normally, momentarily hold your breath when you are through your exhale cycle to create a stable platform and squeeze the trigger.

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Trigger Control & Follow-Through

Trigger control is the act of firing the weapon while maintaining proper aim and adequate stabilization until the bullet leaves the muzzle. Trigger control and the shooter's position work together to allow the sights to stay on the target long enough for the shooter to fire the weapon and bullet to exit the barrel.

Trigger reset is the part of the trigger return process after firing during which the sear is re-engaged as the trigger is released, allowing for the gun to fire the next round. This allows for a subsequent shot or follow-up shot.

Proper trigger control without disturbing the sights is a critical aspect of Control and the most difficult to master.

Shot anticipation (flinch, pre-ignition push) disrupts Control, reducing or eliminating shot anticipation with good trigger control is often most effective way to improve shooting results.

Trigger finger placement lays naturally across the trigger after achieving a proper, high grip.

No specified point must be used.

Trigger squeeze/press. Pull in a smooth, consistent manner. Add steady pressure until the weapon fires. Move straight rearward.

Trigger reset. Retain sight focus while resetting the trigger

Follow-through and Call your shot

Follow-through: Continued mental and physical application of the shot process' functional elements. Firer's head stays in contact with the stock, the firing eye remains open,

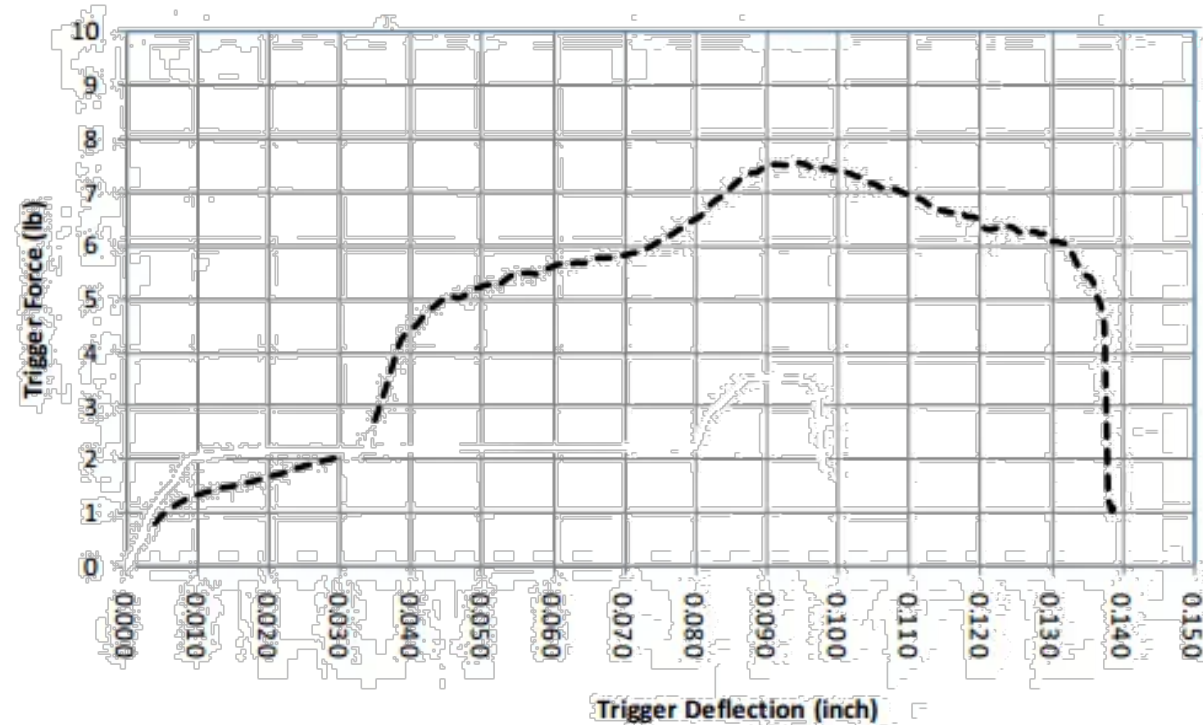
and the trigger finger holds the trigger back through recoil before resetting trigger for next shot.



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Anatomy of Trigger Pull

Trigger Profile



TRIGGER

Sear Release

Take-Up

The distance the trigger moves prior to meeting resistance

Creep

This distance the trigger moved after feeling resistance

Over Travel

The distance the trigger moves after the sear has been released

Take-Up

Creep

Over Travel



Workspace Management

- Spherical area 12 to 18 inch diameter, centered on chin
- Where majority of weapons manipulations take place
- Need access/use of:
 - Selector
 - Charging handle
 - Bolt catch
 - Ejection port
 - Magazine catch

Weapon is 12-18 inches from the eyes.



WORKSPACE MANIPULATIONS

Charging Handle

Bolt Catch

Ejection Port

Magazine Catch

Chamber Check

Forward Assist

Selector Lever

Weapon oriented downrange.

Buttstock seated at inner elbow.

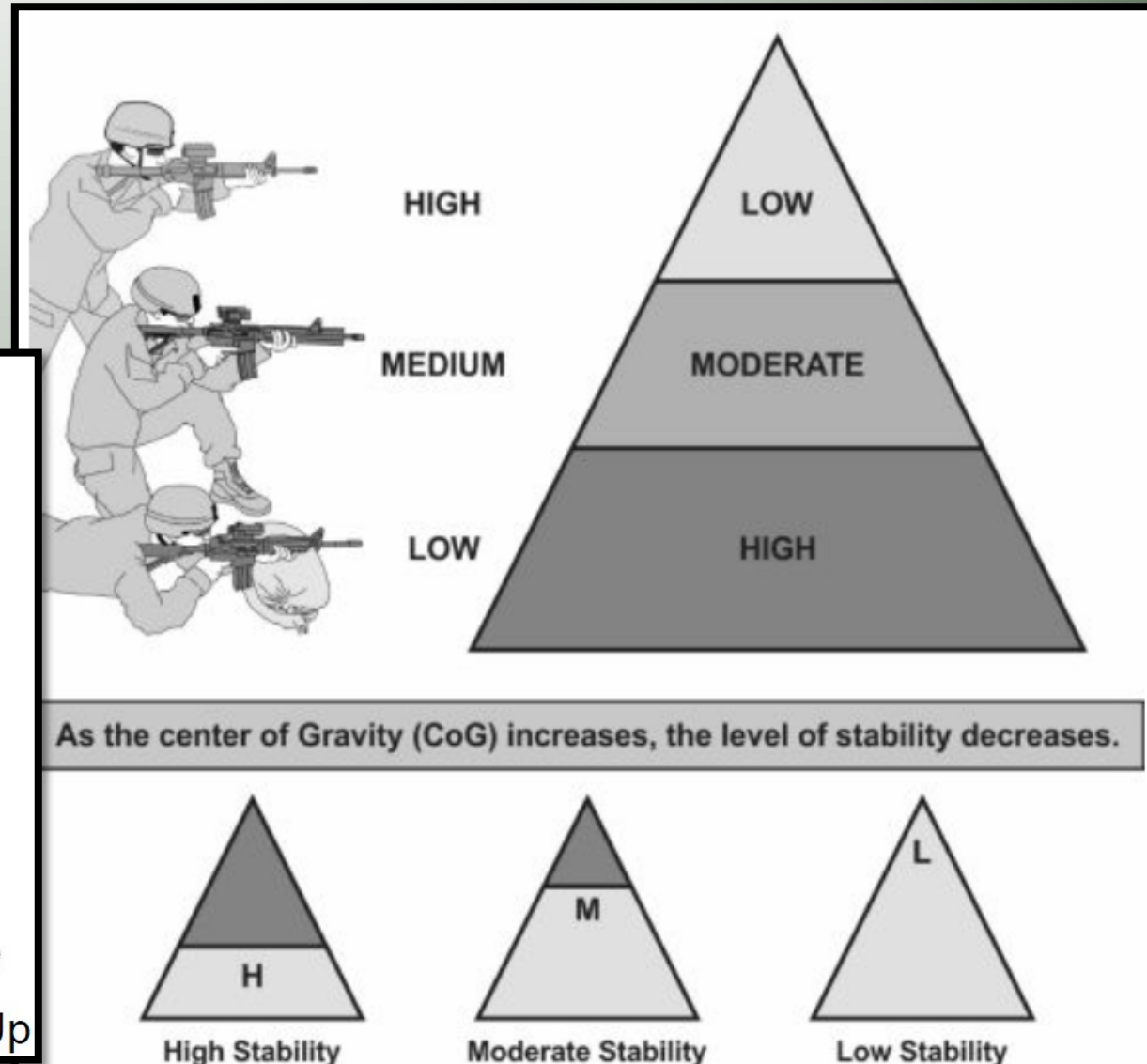
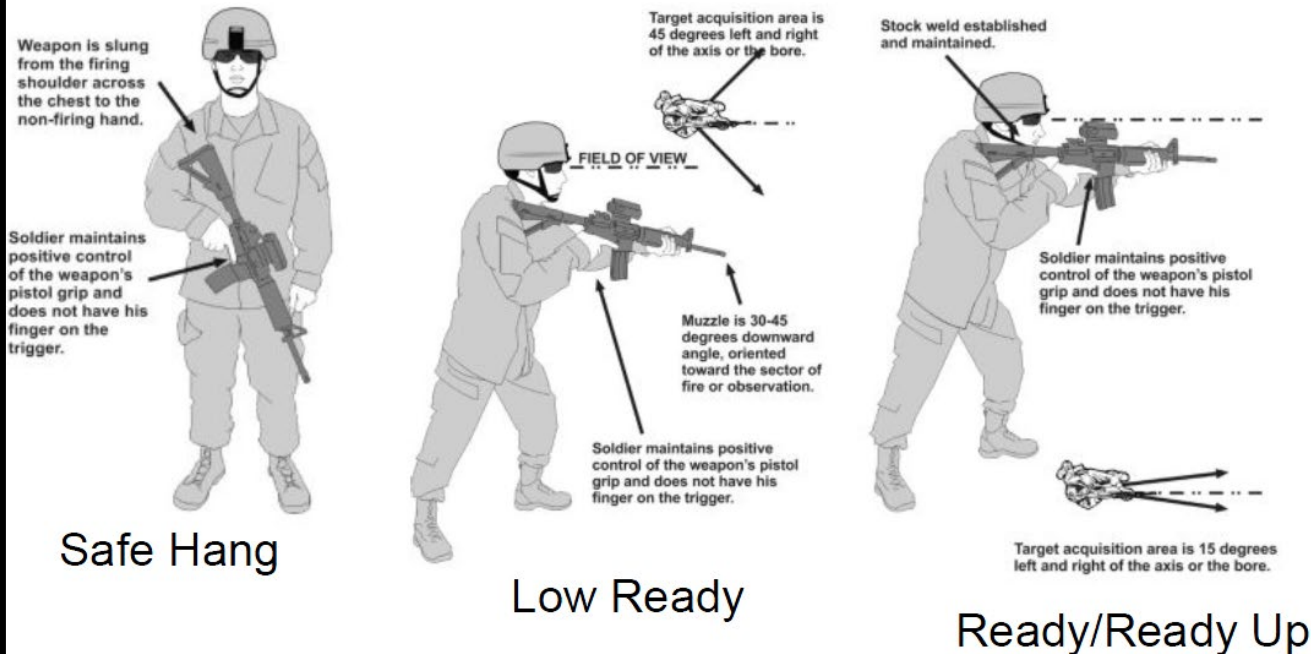
Weapon elevated to approximately 45 degrees.

Weapon is rotated as necessary to complete required manipulations.

Firing & Carry Positions

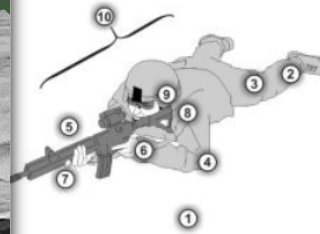
The nature of combat will not always allow time for a Soldier to get into a particular position. Soldiers need to practice firing in a variety of positions, including appropriate variations.

Carry Positions



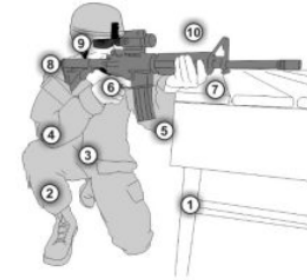
Firing Positions

A position is good *ONLY* if it consistently produces accurate shots!



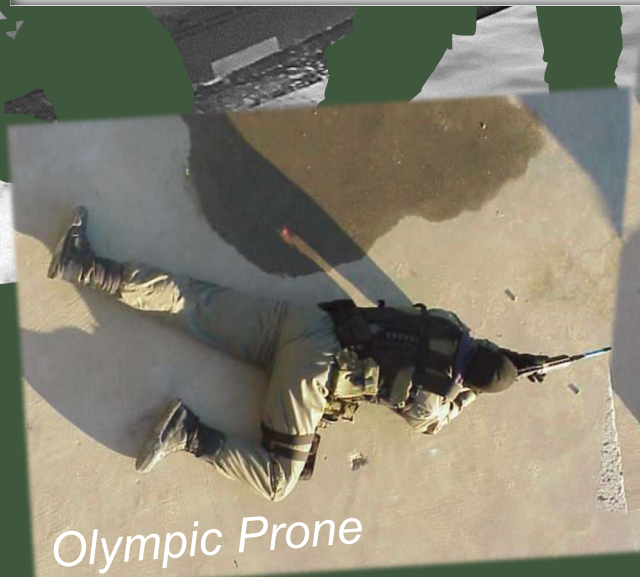
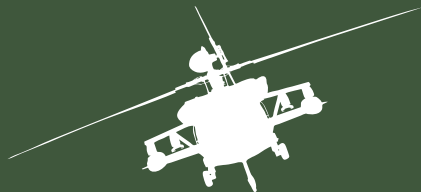
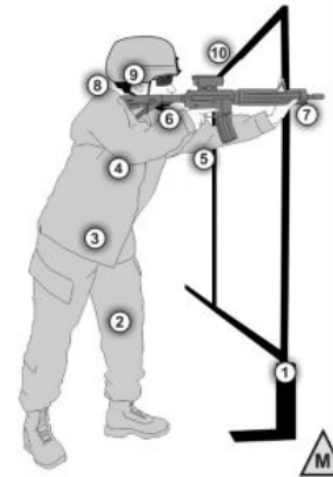
Prone

- Magazine can rest on ground during prone unsupported
- Will NOT induce a malfunction



Kneeling Supported

- Shooting arm on knee
- Support arm on barricade
- Firm cheek weld



Olympic Prone

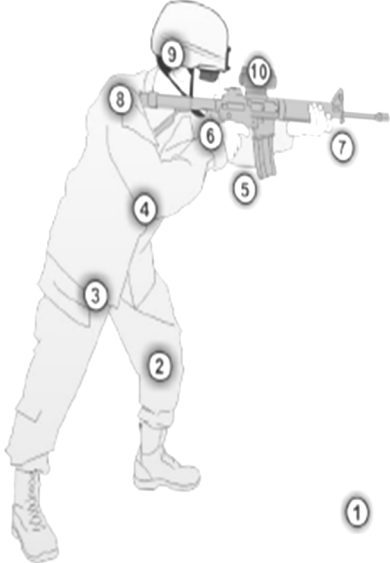


Military Prone

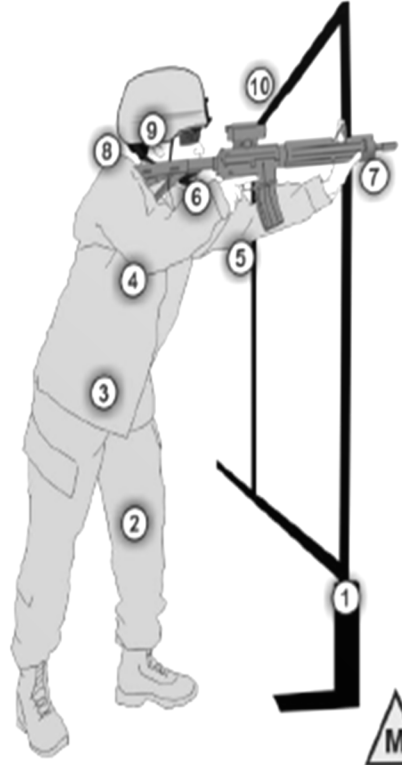
Standing

This position should be used for closer targets or when time is not available to assume a steadier position such as short range employment. The upper body should be leaned slightly forward to aid in recoil management.

① Support:	Unsupported
② Leg Position:	Standing, firm, feet shoulder-width apart.
③ Stance / Center of Gravity:	Aggressive lean forward toward the target.
④ Firing Elbow:	Tucked toward the shooter's side.
⑤ Non-Firing Elbow:	Slightly outward.
⑥ Firing Hand:	Grasping pistol grip, finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
⑦ Non-Firing Hand:	Extended as forward as possible, for aid in recoil and transitioning.
⑧ Butt Plate:	Highest point of shoulder to absorb recoil impulse.
⑨ Stock Weld:	Firm stock weld.
⑩ Shooter-Gun Angle:	Shooter body is approximately 45 degrees to the gun-target line.



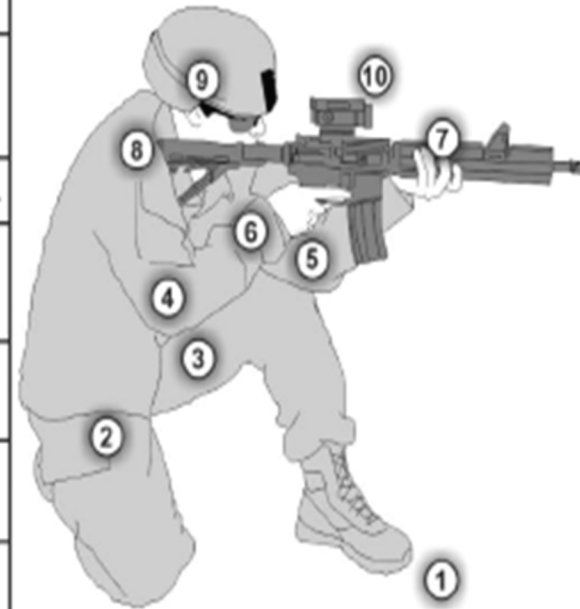
① Support:	Weapon is supported using a structure, bipod, or equipment.
② Leg Position:	Standing, firm, feet shoulder-width apart.
③ Stance / Center of Gravity:	Aggressive lean forward toward the target.
④ Firing Elbow:	Tucked toward the shooter's side.
⑤ Non-Firing Elbow:	Extended to provide non-firing hand support.
⑥ Firing Hand:	Grasping pistol grip, finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
⑦ Non-Firing Hand:	Firm grasp on the hand guards, push against the artificial support.
⑧ Butt Plate:	Highest point of shoulder to absorb recoil impulse.
⑨ Stock Weld:	Firm stock weld.
⑩ Shooter-Gun Angle:	Shooter body is approximately 45 degrees to the gun-target line.



The **kneeling** position is very common and useful in most combat situations. The kneeling position can be supported or unsupported.

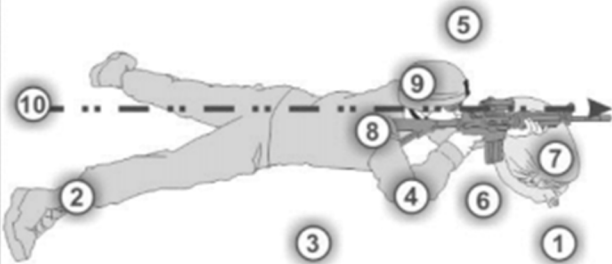
- *Kneeling, unsupported.*
- *Kneeling, supported.*

①	Support:	Unsupported - Soldier uses non-firing knee when possible.
②	Leg Position:	Firing knee on the ground, foot under seat. Non-firing leg bent approximately 90 degrees and under weapon.
③	Stance / Center of Gravity:	Slight lean in to the target area. All weight on non-firing foot, thigh to calf.
④	Firing Elbow:	Tucked toward the shooter's side.
⑤	Non-Firing Elbow:	Tricep on the non-firing knee for self-support. Elbow underneath rifle. Elbow NOT ON KNEE.
⑥	Firing Hand:	Grasping pistol grip, finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
⑦	Non-Firing Hand:	Firm grasp on the hand guards to control wobble.
⑧	Butt Plate:	Mid to high point of shoulder to absorb recoil impulse.
⑨	Stock Weld:	Firm stock weld.
⑩	Shooter-Gun Angle:	Shooter body is approximately 30 degrees to the gun-target line.



The **prone** position is the most stable firing position due to the amount of the Soldier's body is in contact with the ground. The majority of the firer's frame is behind the rifle to assist with recoil management

①	Support:	Supported with sandbag, equipment, or structure.
②	Leg Position:	Spread with heels flat against the ground or the firing side leg bent at the knee to relieve pressure.
③	Stance / Center of Gravity:	Prone position maximizes the Soldier's frame against the ground for maximum stability.
④	Firing Elbow:	Used to provide stability to the weapon.
⑤	Non-Firing Elbow:	Used to provide stability to the weapon.
⑥	Firing Hand:	Grasping pistol grip, finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
⑦	Non-Firing Hand:	Firm grasp on the hand guards.
⑧	Butt Plate:	Mid-point of shoulder to absorb recoil impulse.
⑨	Stock Weld:	Firm stock weld.
⑩	Shooter-Gun Angle:	Shooter body is nearly in-line with the gun-target line.



Reloads

Tactical reloading- performed when there is a lull in the action. "Reloads are planned events; reload when you need to not when you have to." Always attempt to perform this action in a secured area or behind cover. "*TIME, OPPORTUNITY, COVER & AMMUNITION*" When a shooting has occurred perform a tac-reload, at the first "*LULL IN THE ACTION*". Complete a Tac-reload prior to exiting a room if a shooting has occurred, no more than 3 shooting events Tac-reload regardless.

Tactical reloading process

1. Grasp a fresh magazine, remove it from the furthest mag holder on your gear and move it towards the weapon. Place the fresh magazine next to the seated magazine.
2. Grasp the magazine in the weapon while maintaining control of the fresh magazine. Depress the magazine release button and release the partially used magazine from the weapon.
3. Insert fresh magazine and retain old.

Speed reload- Once there is a break in the fight the operator will perform this procedure while another operator covers him, if possible. Obviously the circumstances will dictate.

Speed load process:

1. Grasp the fresh magazine from the magazine pouch using the proper grasp.
2. Start the fresh magazine towards the weapon simultaneously depressing the magazine release button and dropping the expended magazine onto the ground.
3. Rotate the fresh magazine into the weapon briskly and aggressively seating into the magazine port of the weapon. Give it a tug ensuring that it is locked in the magazine port securely.
4. Slide the support hand straight up the magazine, extend the thumb up and press the bolt catch paddle located on the left-hand side of the weapon. If the bolt is forward make sure to cycle it.

In one continuous motion slide your support hand up onto the handguard and continue the mission. For the left-hander the support hand reaches up and around the magazine well. Extend your fingertips up and strike the bolt release catch.

Perform Immediate Action

To perform immediate action, the Soldier instinctively: Tap - Rack - Bang

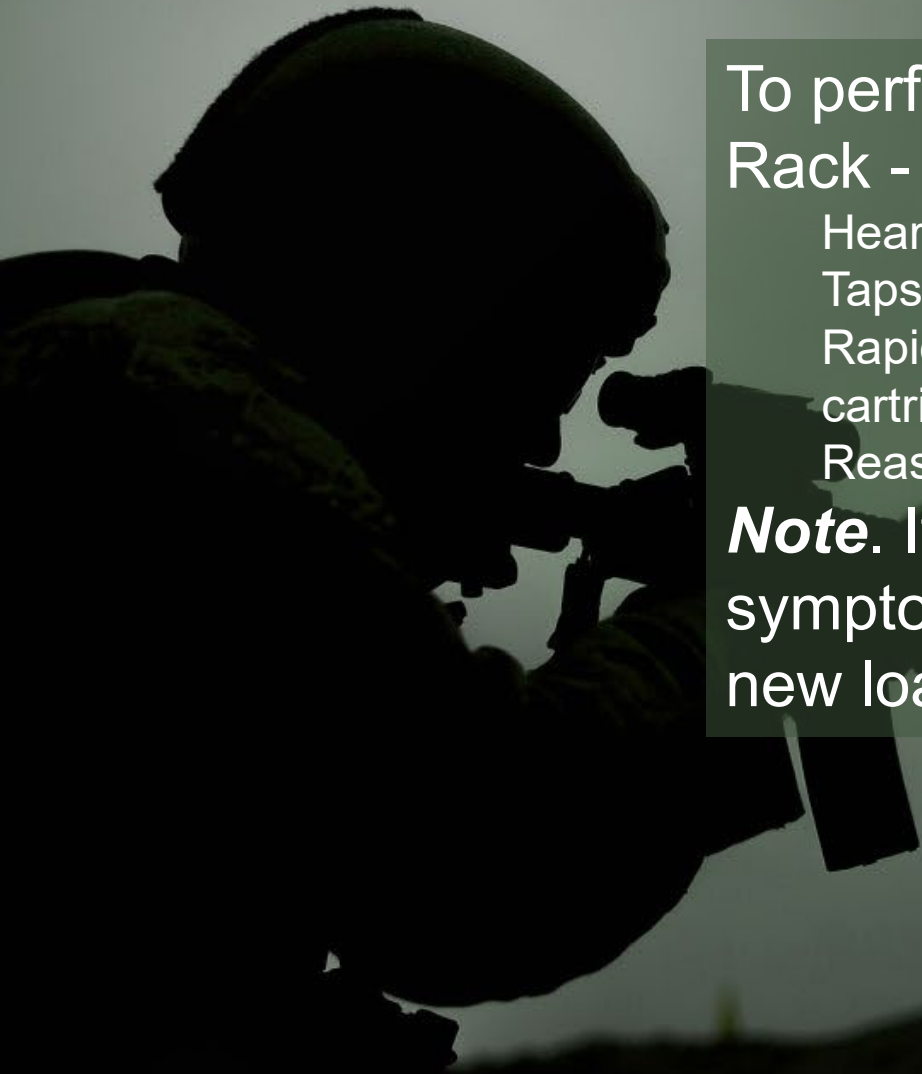
Hears the hammer fall with an audible “click.”

Taps the bottom of the magazine firmly.

Rapidly pulls the charging handle and releases to extract / eject the previous cartridge and feed, chamber, and lock a new round.

Reassess by continuing the shot process (pull trigger).

Note. If a malfunction continues to occur with the same symptoms, the Soldier will remove the magazine and insert a new loaded magazine, then repeat the steps above.



Perform Remedial Action

To perform remedial action, the Soldier must have a clear understanding of where the weapon failed during the cycle of function. Remedial action executed when one of the following conditions exist:

- Immediate action does not work after two attempts.
- The trigger refuses to be squeezed.
- The trigger feels like “mush” when squeezed.

Remedial action procedure is as follows:

- Try to place the weapon on safe
- Remove the magazine
- Lock the bolt to the rear
- Place the weapon on safe if not already done

Correcting Malfunctions

Remedial action is required to correct the following types of malfunctions or symptoms;

- **Stove pipe** – can occur when either a feeding cartridge or an expended cartridge case is pushed sideways during the cycle of function causing that casing to stop the forward movement of the bolt carrier assembly and lodge itself between the face of the bolt and the ejection port.
- **Double feed** – occurs when a round is chambered and not fired and a subsequent round is being fed without the chamber being clear.
- **Bolt override** – is when the bolt fails to push a new cartridge out of the magazine during feeding or chambering, causing the bolt to ride on top of the cartridge.
- **Charging handle impingement** – when a round becomes stuck between the bolt assembly and the charging handle where the charging handle is not in the forward, locked position.

