

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

Introduction

This document is designed to provide you with the four critical safety rules and pistol fundamentals.

You will analyze the fundamentals of marksmanship, which include proper stance, grip, and techniques for drawing the weapon from your holster. You will see different methods for loading and unloading, as well as how to clear the magazine-fed pistol in the event a malfunction occurs.

Regular practice in the fundamentals of shooting to become proficient in weapons safety and accuracy with a pistol is essential.

Key Terms

Key Term	Description
Follow-through	Deliberate process in which the shooter maintains attention on the target and continues to apply the fundamentals after a shot is fired
Immediate action	Type of malfunction clearance that is a sequence of steps that permits the shooter to clear a malfunction rapidly without removing or replacing the current magazine
Remedial action	Type of malfunction clearance that you perform in the event immediate action fails to clear the malfunction
Sight alignment	The relationship between the front and rear sights
Sight picture	The relationship of sight alignment to the target
Speed reloads	A reloading technique that enables you to load another magazine rapidly in your weapon so that you can continue the engagement
Tactical reload	A reloading technique that involves the removal of a partially empty magazine and replacing it with a full one
Trigger control	Pressure applied to the trigger in a manner that does not disturb the existing sight picture

This information will allow you to do the following:

1. Understand firearms safety procedures.
2. Dry practice with the fundamentals of pistol marksmanship.
3. Practice pistol proper weapon positions.
4. Dry-fire practicing loading, unloading, and clearing procedures.
5. Dry-fire practicing pistol malfunction clearances.

Dry-fire is practicing WITHOUT ammunitions. No magazine inserted in the magazine well and NO ROUND in the chamber. The weapon is “free” of ammunition.

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

Four Critical Safety Rules

The following rules apply to all weapons:

- 1) Assume **all** guns are always loaded — at all times, treat all guns with the respect that is due a loaded weapon.

Whenever you pick up a weapon the first thing you should do is point the muzzle in a safe directions (away from any people). Next remove the “source” (the magazine that contains the bullets), press the magazine release and pull the magazine out of the magazine well. Then pull and “lock” the slide to the rear to ensure there are no bullets in the chamber/weapon. If one is in the chamber, it will eject it out once you pull the slide to the rear. Visually and physically check the chamber area and magazine well to ensure they are clear. With the weapon still pointed in a safe direction, visually look into the chamber to see that it is clear, stick your finger into the chamber area to ensure no bullet is “stuck” in the chamber. Visually and physically do the same thing to the magazine well to double check there is no magazine there. Once this is complete, you have ensured that that weapon is safe. Even at this point, NEVER point the muzzle at anyone. Keep the weapon with the slide locked to the rear so other around can see the condition of the weapon.

NEVER LOOK DOWN THE BARREL FROM THE MUZZLE OF THE WEAPON!!

- 2) Never point a gun at anything you are not willing to shoot.

When we talk about pointing the weapon, we are talking about the muzzle/barrel of the weapon. If you're not willing to destroy someone by shooting them, then never aim the “pointy end/muzzle” of the gun at anyone. The biggest safety concern seen by novice weapon's owners is that they “wave” the gun around not knowing where the barrel is pointing.

Pointing the weapon “anywhere” is a deliberate movement, and that deliberate movement is to ensure that the muzzle is “always” pointing in a safe direction until there is a “deadly need” to point/shoot at someone.

- 3) Keep your finger OFF THE TRIGGER until ready to fire.

When a person grips the pistol the proper placement of the index finger is extended along the slide or the trigger guard. The only time the finger enters the trigger guard, and the fingertip is placed on the trigger, is when you're extending the pistol to shoot your target. To many times we see people waving the gun around with their finger on the trigger (first of all nobody knows if the weapon is in a safe condition or if it is loaded) this is the first sign that a person does not know what he/she is doing with a weapon.

- 4) Be **sure** of your target and what is behind and around your target.
Pulling the trigger of a loaded weapon could have a magnitude affect if done inappropriately. What do I mean by that; once the bullet exits out of the barrel it is going somewhere. You are responsible for every bullet that is shot out of the weapon. If you miss what you are shooting at and hit an innocent person, you are responsible for that. Example: if a person is in a crowd and you shoot at the person and miss and hit someone else, you will be held accountable in a court of law. Also, most people don't realize that **bullets can go through people, furniture, walls** etc., so it is important to know what is behind and around your target, so you must assess the entire situation before shooting.

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

- a. If you miss you want to make sure no one else will be hit
- b. If you miss and the bullet goes through a wall and into another room or house, you are also responsible for where that bullet goes.

So, it is very important to know what and who is around the target you are shooting at and what is behind your target because if you miss your target the bullet is still traveling until it runs out of energy... it is going somewhere.

Fundamentals of Pistol Marksmanship

The fundamentals of pistol marksmanship include:

- 5) Stance
- 6) Grip
- 7) Sight alignment
- 8) Sight picture
- 9) Breathing
- 10) Trigger control
- 11) Follow-through

Firing Stance

To attain the proper firing stance, follow these procedures:

1. Place feet shoulder width apart, toes pointed toward the threat or target, with the support foot slightly forward of the strong-side foot; the strong side is the holster side
2. Flex or bend your knees slightly, but not enough to crouch or squat
3. Balance your weight evenly on the balls of both feet, with the feet flat on the ground
4. Shift your weight forward toward the threat (chest over the balls of the feet)
5. Square shoulders to target or threat
6. Bring arms up in front of you; do not lock your elbows

Grip

The grip is a critical fundamental in pistol marksmanship that allows the shooter to “manage the recoil” of a fired weapon. Your strong hand grips the pistol while your support hand provides the necessary support.

To attain the correct grip for firing the pistol, follow these procedures:

1. Form a "V" with the strong hand thumb and index finger
2. Fit the grip of the pistol (back of the pistol) into the hand with the V placed as high on the tang (back strap) as possible
3. Rest the index finger along the frame, above the trigger and below the slide
4. Wrap the remaining three fingers of the strong hand firmly around the handgrip
5. Place the thumb of the strong hand along the frame, at the top of the grip below the slide; do not put lateral pressure on the frame
6. Wrap support hand tightly around the fingers of the strong hand, parallel with the ground
7. Place the thumb of the support hand parallel to and below the thumb of the strong hand, with the heel of the thumb (palm) in firm contact with the handgrip; do not interfere with the trigger finger or put lateral

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

pressure on the pistol. The goal is to have both thumb pads touching each other with “NO GAPS” between the thumb pads and the pistol grip

Sight Alignment

Sight alignment is the relationship between the front and rear sights. The front sight is level across the rear notch. The top of the front post should be level with the top of the rear notch. There should be equal light on each side of the front sight in the rear notch. Bring the weapon up to eye-level, do not bring your eyes down to the weapon sites.

All this is doing is ensuring your sights are aligned properly.

To attain proper sight alignment of a pistol, follow these procedures:

1. Center the tip of the front sight post vertically and horizontally within the notch of rear sight
2. Focus on the tip of the front sight; your eye will naturally center it within the notch of the rear sight
3. Ensure that there is an equal amount of light on each side of the front sight in the rear notch
4. Keep both eyes open

Sight Picture

Sight picture is the relationship of sight alignment to the target. The front sight is level across the rear notch. There should be an equal amount of light on each side of the front sight in the rear notch. The top of the front sight is the point of impact on your target.

Sight alignment and sight picture are different. Many people believe they are the same. Sight alignment is just proper aligning the front post and rear notch. Sight picture is when you have sight alignment and THEN align the sights on your target.

For an accurate sight picture while using the pistol, apply the following guidelines:

1. The front sight should be in sharp focus
2. The target and rear sight should be slightly blurred
3. The sight picture will move about somewhat due to the steadiness of your hold as you press the trigger; this is especially dependent upon movement of the shooter, the target, or both
4. The sight picture does not have to be perfectly still; do not concentrate on holding the sight picture perfectly still; instead, allow a small wobble zone that will result in acceptable hit(s)

Breathing

Normal breathing occurs in three phases: inhale, exhale, and a **natural respiratory pause**. Breathing is a marksmanship fundamental that applies when the shooter is not under physical stress or time pressure. During normal breathing, when you inhale, your lungs will fill with air causing your chest to expand and your arms to rise. You will still have sight alignment but not necessarily sight picture. On exhalation, you expel air from your lungs causing your chest to deflate and your arms lower. **The bottom of your exhalation is your natural respiratory pause (you are not holding your breath)**. At this point, you should have a good sight picture. This is the time to shoot the target or threat because your arms are not moving up or down and the weapon is steady.

The following are important things to consider:

1. Breathing affects your vision
2. Avoid rapid, shallow breathing

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

3. If possible, settle yourself with a couple of controlled breaths before firing each shot
4. Poor breathing will cause your shots to be strung up and down the target vertically
5. Breathe as normally as possible
6. Do not hold your breath
7. For surgical precision at a distance or when engaging a small target area:
 - Rely upon the natural respiratory pause inherent in the normal breathing cycle
 - Shoot during the pause between exhalation and inhalation

Trigger Control

Trigger control is pressure applied to the trigger in a manner that **does not disturb the existing sight picture**. To attain proper trigger control while using the pistol, follow these procedures:

1. Place the pad between the tip and first joint of your shooting finger on the trigger
2. Adjust placement to ensure a smooth and “fluid” trigger press
3. Isolate trigger finger (do not tighten your grip on the pistol when pressing the trigger to the rear)
4. Maintain contact between your shooting finger and the trigger at all times while you point the pistol at the target; do not slap the trigger between shots
5. Press the trigger straight back with a steady, constant, even pressure: do not pull
6. Maintain sight picture through the trigger press
7. Do not anticipate recoil

The **majority of shooting errors** are related to **poor trigger control** and anticipating recoil. When you use a smooth trigger stroke and **do not slap the trigger**, the hammer fall and discharge should be a surprise, which will lessen the possibility that you will anticipate your weapon’s recoil.

Follow-Through

Follow-through is the deliberate process in which the shooter maintains attention on the target and continues to apply the fundamentals; at the same time, the shooter controls the pistol, particularly the trigger after the shot(s) have been fired.

To attain proper follow-through and avoid shooting errors, follow these procedures:

1. Maintain position and hold the trigger back through recoil
2. Maintain grip pressure as you recover from the recoil
3. Relax the trigger pressure far enough, and only far enough, **for the trigger to reset** (you will hear a slight “click” when the trigger moves forward, this is as far forward you want the trigger to travel if you’re going to take another immediate shot)
4. Obtain another sight picture

After the shot and trigger reset, the procedure should be the same for follow-on shots. Ensure you have sight alignment and sight picture, recognize your breathing, smoothly and fluidly press the trigger to the rear until the shot goes off. When the shot goes off **ALWAYS** and **“IMMEDIATELY”** after the recoil, get another sight picture.

If you shoot once you should get two sight pictures. One before the shot and another immediately after the shot (even if you don’t shoot a second time), **NEVER** get out of the fight too early.

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

If you shoot twice, you should get three sight pictures. One before the initial shot, another after the second shot and before the third shot, and one after the third shot. Once it is determined that the threat has been neutralized, then you can lower your weapon.

Weapon Positions

To maintain firearms safety while having your weapon readily available, the **ready position** is the point where you, the shooter, have both hands on the weapon “at and near” approximately sternum level to extend the weapon to engage a threat or target. The **pistol low-ready** allows you to maintain a ready position while not keeping the pistol up by the sternum for long durations, but still allows you to have the weapon out of the holster while looking for potential targets. The **workstation position** allows you to load magazines and clear malfunctions while keeping the weapon close to the body and in line of sight with the target.

When you go to the range, and are actually performing drills at the firing line, you **must** always carry the pistol in a cleared and safe condition. To attain this condition, ensure the following status of your weapon:

8. Magazine is out of the weapon
9. Slide is to the rear
10. Weapon is in the holster

Pistol Ready Position

In the **pistol ready position**, you establish the two-handed grip close to the body, at or near the sternum. The pistol is parallel to the ground with the muzzle pointed toward the threat or target ready to engage it.

From this position, the shooter can easily engage a surprise threat or extend the arms to the target and engage using standard fundamentals. After shooting and completing a scan, the shooter would return to the pistol ready position preparing to engage another threat or target, or re-holster.

Pistol Low-Ready Position

The **pistol low-ready position** involves maintaining a proper two-handed grip with the arms extended and the muzzle pointing at the ground in front of you at a 45-degree angle. The pistol low-ready position is easier to maintain for an extended duration because you do not have to hold the pistol up, near your sternum. It does; however, enable you to have the weapon out of the holster as you look for potential targets.

The 45-degree angle is high enough so that the pistol is not aiming at your feet, and low enough so it is not aiming at objects in front of you. The index finger is off the trigger, outside the trigger guard, and along the frame of the weapon.

Workstation Position

The workstation is the area below the chin and approximately **one foot in front of the shooter's chest** (a “V” shape bend in your elbow). From the workstation position, it is easier for you to load a magazine into the magazine well, conduct a magazine change, and clear a malfunction. Additionally, it allows you to maintain observation of the threat zone. In front of you.

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

Drawing from the Holster

There are four steps involved in drawing the pistol from the holster:

Step 1: Work on defeating the retention of the holster and acquire a proper strong hand grip (for right handed people, the strong hand is your right hand, and your support hand is your left hand. The opposite would apply to left-handers)

Step 2: Lift the weapon up out of the holster. When the barrel clears the holster, simply cock your wrist upward so the weapon is horizontal to the ground and tight against the side of the body and the muzzle points down range, level. Support hand comes to the center of the chest ready to acquire a two hand grip on the next step

Step 3: Bring the weapon and support hand together at the center of chest and acquire a two handed grip. The support hand should not need to be readjusted if the proper right-handed grip was done while the weapon was in the holster. Do not dip the muzzle down or raise the muzzle up when bringing the weapon to your support hand. Keep the muzzle “always” pointing towards the target.

Step 4: Extend the arms and weapon toward the target. **Bring the weapon up to the eyes, not the head down to the weapon.** As you are extending the weapon toward the target to shoot, place your trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture. As your reach full extension, the trigger should be fully pressed and the weapon should go off. As the recoil is occurring, get your sight alignment, move on to a sight picture, and be ready to shoot again if necessary.

While practicing during “dry-fire”, slowly release the trigger, (slingshot the slide with support hand, until trigger reset) reacquire your two-handed grip, acquire a second sight picture, and scan left/right if a second shot is not required. Do not allow the trigger to create any slack in it by continuing to let the trigger move forward of the reset point or let trigger finger to come completely off the trigger. As soon as you hear or feel the trigger reset, stop one’s finger from moving anymore forward.

Areas to focus on as it relates to drawing the Pistol

Step 1: Developing a strong hand grip while the weapon is still in the holster. If the person is constantly “re-gripping” the weapon after it is out of the holster or after a shot, that person not acquire a proper grip on it while it is in the holster. Have the person figure out, with an instructor’s help, with understanding how to grip the pistol while it is in the holster. One way is to have the person get a good strong hand grip, then put it back in the holster with the acquired strong hand grip and let him feel a good grip in the holster.

Step 2: Bringing the weapon straight up out of the holster and immediately turning it 90 degrees to the horizontal position with the muzzle pointing toward the target. Most people will have the barrel/slide pointing slightly up or down, left or right. The proper positioning should be, if the person took a shot from the Step 2 position, it should hit the target in front of him.

Step 3: Bringing the weapon close to the center of the chest while still pointing the weapon at the target. Also, acquire a good two-handed grip with the correct pressures on the pistol handle.

Step 4: Extend your arms “straight” out. Don’t dip your arms like a bowling move, or raise your arms like you’re fishing. Push the weapon straight to the target.

****It’s important to develop good habits during each step of the draw before increasing the speed of the draw.***

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

Pistol Loading, Unloading and Clearing, and Reloading Procedures

Firearms safety and effective employment require that you follow correct procedures when loading, unloading and clearing, and reloading the Magazine-fed pistol. Details of these procedures follow.

Loading Procedures

There are two primary methods for loading a magazine-fed pistol. The correct method is determined by the position of the weapon. Use Method 1 when the **slide of the weapon is locked to the rear**. Use Method 2 when the **slide of the weapon is in the forward position**.

To load the pistol, draw the weapon from the holster and **bring it to the Workstation Position**. Because the slide of the weapon may be in one of two positions (locked to the rear or in the forward position), there are two separate loading procedures.

Slide Locked to the Rear

To load the magazine-fed pistol with the slide locked to the rear:

1. Point the muzzle in a safe direction
2. Grab the magazine with your support hand
3. Insert a loaded magazine into the pistol and ensure it is seated properly by tugging the magazine to ensure it is locked in position
4. Keep your **finger off the trigger**, press down on the slide release and let the slide go forward freely. **Do not** ride the slide forward; let it go forward freely
5. Holster the pistol

Slide in the Forward Position

To load the pistol when the slide is forward:

1. Point the muzzle in a safe direction
2. Grab the magazine with your support hand
3. Insert a full magazine into the pistol and ensure it is seated properly
4. With the support hand, grasp the slide firmly from above, between the rear sight and ejection port
5. Pull the slide firmly to the rear and release it, thus chambering a round
6. Holster the pistol

Unloading and Clearing Procedures

Whenever you first pick up a weapon, always clear it. An empty chamber or a removed magazine alone does not guarantee that the weapon system is clear. You must remove the magazine, and visually and physically inspect the chamber to ensure no rounds are present.

To unload and clear the pistol correctly, **assume the Workstation Position**, and then complete the following procedures:

1. Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction with the **finger off the trigger**
2. Release and remove the magazine from the pistol
3. Place the magazine in your pocket
4. Pull the slide to the rear, ejecting the round in the chamber (do not try to catch the round)
5. Lock the slide to the rear

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

6. Visually and physically check the chamber and magazine well for live rounds (if present, remove them)
7. Let the slide go forward
8. Holster and secure the pistol

WARNING. It is important that this is done in the proper sequence. If you eject the round first and let the slide go forward, you have placed another round in the chamber. Removing the magazine after that leads to a weapon that is NOT CLEARED. You must remove the magazine (the source) first and THEN eject the round from the chamber, and lock the slide in the rearward position.

Reloading Techniques

With the pistol, you have two primary reloading techniques: **speed reload** and **tactical reload**. There is also an **administrative reload technique**. The technique you use depends upon the condition of the weapon and your current situation. For example, if you are engaging a threat and your weapon runs out of ammunition — the magazine is empty, and you have no more rounds left in the weapon — you must conduct a **speed reload**. The speed reload enables you to load another magazine rapidly in your weapon so that you can continue the engagement.

In another situation, you may be engaging a threat and the threat suddenly stops shooting. You might have rounds in the magazine, but it is not fully loaded. This is a good time to find cover, if you have not already, and prepare for a possible re-engagement by conducting a **tactical reload**. A tactical reload involves the removal of a partially empty magazine and replacing it with a full one. It takes less time to perform a speed reload than a tactical reload. This is because during a speed reload, you allow the empty magazine to drop to the ground, whereas a tactical reload involves saving the partially loaded magazine for later use.

An **administrative reload** involves safely loading the pistol with a full magazine while it remains in the holster. You conduct an administrative reload after using the pistol and re-holstering it without being certain of the number of rounds left in the seated magazine. It is important to keep a fully loaded magazine in your pistol **at all times** in preparation for use. In some instances, or locations, it is not safe or permissible to remove your weapon from the holster to load or check the status of your magazine, so the administrative reload is the preferred method in these types of situations. The following section lists the procedures for each type of reload.

Speed Reload

To perform the speed reload technique correctly on the pistol, use the following procedures:

1. Bring the weapon to the workstation position
2. Establish a grip on a fresh magazine from the first pouch (closest to the belt buckle)
3. Depress the magazine release with the thumb or index finger; depending on which hand is used; allow the empty magazine to fall to the ground
4. With the index finger along the front edge of the magazine, insert a fresh magazine into the magazine well and lock it into place
5. Typically, once the magazine seats in the pistol, the slide will automatically go forward; if this does not happen, press down on the slide release, and let the slide go forward; or with the support hand, grasp the slide firmly from above, between the rear sight and ejection port and pull it firmly to the rear and release it
6. From the workstation, extend the pistol back on target
7. Reassess the situation and fire, if appropriate

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

Tactical Reload

To perform the tactical reload technique correctly on the magazine-fed pistol, use the following procedures:

1. Use cover, if available, or have another person provide cover
2. Bring the weapon to the workstation position
3. Move the support hand to the rearmost magazine in the magazine pouch
4. Remove the full magazine from the pouch, with the base of the magazine in the palm and the index finger along the front edge of the magazine
5. Bring the full magazine to the base of the grip
6. Remove the partially loaded magazine by pressing the magazine release and catching the magazine in your support hand
7. Insert the full magazine into the magazine well and lock it into place
8. Listen for the click to ensure proper seating
9. Place the partially spent magazine in a pocket or location other than the magazine pouch. **DO NOT** place the partially spent magazine in a location where you could confuse it with a full magazine

Administrative Reload

To complete an administrative reload of the pistol:

1. Leave the pistol secured in the holster
2. With the thumb of the strong hand, depress the magazine release to unseat the magazine
3. Grasp the unseated magazine in the fingers of your strong hand and remove the magazine from the pistol. Visually check the magazine to determine the number of rounds left in the magazine
 - If the magazine is full, reinsert it into the pistol and check to ensure that it is seated properly
 - If the magazine is not full, place it in your pocket or another area separate from the magazine pouch
4. Use the support hand to retrieve a fully loaded magazine from the magazine pouch
5. Transfer the new loaded magazine to the strong hand and insert it into the pistol
6. As described in the loading procedure, tug on the magazine once seated to ensure that it is secure in the magazine well

Fundamentals and Weapon Positions Exercise

Now is a good time to practice the fundamentals of marksmanship and the weapon positions for the pistol. Confirm that the weapon is **cleared and safe** for use in the exercise.

1. Practice the following fundamentals of using the pistol:
 - a. Stance
 - b. Grip
 - c. Sight alignment
 - d. Sight picture
 - e. Breathing
 - f. Trigger control
 - g. Follow-through
2. Practice the following weapon positions:
 - a. Pistol ready
 - b. Pistol low-ready
 - c. Workstation

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

Magazine-fed Pistol Malfunction Clearances

A malfunction can be the result of shooter error, accumulated dirt and debris, lack of routine weapon maintenance, or defective ammunition or magazines. Malfunctions also occur when parts of the firearm fail or break. You can quickly correct most malfunctions. The recommended procedures for clearing malfunctions are:

1. Immediate action
2. Remedial action

If immediate action fails to correct the problem, perform the remedial action.

Immediate Action

Immediate action is a sequence of steps that permit the shooter to clear a malfunction rapidly without removing or replacing the current magazine.

The phrase “tap, rack, and reacquire” serves as a reminder for how to conduct immediate action procedures. **Tap** is hitting the bottom of the magazine to ensure it seats properly. **Rack** is cycling the slide. **Reacquire** is reacquiring the sight picture. The specific procedures for conducting immediate action on the magazine-fed pistol are as follows:

1. **Tap** the base of the magazine with your support hand to ensure that the magazine is fully seated
2. **Rack** the slide by pulling it fully to the rear quickly with the support hand and release the slide, allowing it to go forward freely
3. **Reacquire** a firing grip, sight picture, reassess the situation, and continue to fire if appropriate

The immediate action procedures will clear the following malfunctions:

3. Unseated magazine
4. Failure to fire
5. Failure to eject

When the immediate action procedure fails to clear a malfunction, perform remedial action.

Remedial Action

If immediate action fails to clear your weapon’s malfunction, you must use remedial action procedures. You would also use remedial action in the case of any other malfunction or improper function of the magazine-fed pistol.

Remedial action takes longer to clear the malfunction due to the complexity of the malfunction. This procedure will clear the following malfunctions:

1. Double feed
2. Faulty magazine

If the primary immediate action procedure fails to clear the malfunction, perform remedial action by taking the following actions:

1. Pull and lock the slide to the rear; this may extract and eject a round lodged in the chamber
2. Remove the magazine; allow all loose rounds to fall out of the chamber area
3. Look in the chamber area and ensure it is clear of shell casings or other debris, this may require you to cycle the slide several times

WEAPON SAFETY AND PISTOL FUNDAMENTALS

4. Insert a new magazine utilizing the prescribed loading procedures; the previous magazine may be low on rounds, or the magazine may be faulty, causing the malfunction
5. Use the prescribed loading and charging procedures to ready the weapon

If the malfunction is not resolved quickly, transition to your next available weapon and, if appropriate, seek cover. When time permits, clear the malfunctioning weapon and make it ready for use.

Practical Exercises

Practice the various procedures from this document that you will perform on the range with the magazine-fed pistol. These include loading, unloading and clearing, speed and tactical reloads, and immediate and remedial actions to clear malfunctions. Prior to beginning the exercise, ensure that your pistol is cleared and safe. You can use plastic training rounds for these exercises. **Remember there is NO LIVE AMMUNITION DURING THESE PRACTICE DRILLS.**

Each exercise will follow the same format:

1. Practice following magazine-fed pistol procedures:
 - a. Draw from the holster
 - b. Loading
 - c. Unloading and clearing
 - d. Speed reload
 - e. Tactical reload
 - f. Immediate action
 - g. Remedial action

When you can perform these exercises with proficiency, then go to the range and focus on live fire accuracy.

COMPLETION

In this document, you reviewed the fundamentals for marksmanship for the magazine-fed pistol and the appropriate weapon positions. You practiced different methods for loading, unloading, and reloading the magazine-fed pistol as well as the correct procedures for clearing certain types of malfunctions. Once you feel comfortable with the exercises, find a qualified instructor, and schedule some range time and enjoy. This should be fun if performed safely.