

TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS



TRANSITION -TO THE- SIG SAUER M17 -AND- M18

BY BRENDAN SOUDER

I have transitioned from the Beretta M9 to a series of Glock pistols and now I am honing my skills with the new Sig.

Since Sig Sauer won the military service pistol contract in 2017 to produce the M17 and M18, many soldiers are transitioning to this gun. Citizens who like to be proficient with the most common firearms will have to do the same.

The bottom line, up front is that new firearms are not too difficult to learn if you

already have an excellent working knowledge of marksmanship and gun handling skills. The most difficult part is the mental game to get over your biases and your pre-existing preferences. The most common obstacle to growth is the thought of “this is what I’ve always done”. At RPGi we can get a shooter to a high level of pistol performance in 600 rounds or less if

they show up with the right equipment, ammunition, a positive attitude and about six hours.

Some shooters forget what made them proficient with their original gun. You see, pistol shooting is challenging because if your fundamentals are slightly off, then it punishes your overall performance (especially accuracy). We find that guys at the

SKILLS AND SURVIVAL FOR ALL SITUATIONS

U.S. ARMY STAFF SGT. DARYL BRADFORD

CONTENTS

- 01** TRANSITION TO THE SIG SAUER M17 AND M18
BY BRENDAN SOUDER
- 05** EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: TRIZ, THE THEORY OF INVENTIVE PROBLEM SOLVING
WRITTEN BY GENRICH ALTSCHULLER
SUMMARY BY CHRIS GRAHAM
- 06** GEAR REVIEW: HURLEY ADVANTAGE
- 07** LESSONS FROM SOUTH AFRICA
BY KEVIN REEVE
- 10** DEFEATING PUSH BUTTON LOCKS
BY PAT WATSON
- 13** ENTANGLED PISTOL ACCESS
BY ADAM SCHOLL
- 16** UNDERSTANDING THE THREAT TRAIN THE TRAINER COURSE
BY KEN JAVES
- 20** PROFILES OF COURAGE: STUART SCHELLER

STAFF

DAVID MORRIS and "OX"	Publishers
CHRIS GRAHAM www.chrisgrahamauthor.com	Editor
JOHN HIGGS	Copy Editor

OUR LAWYERS INSIST WE MAKE THE FOLLOWING DISCLAIMER: You may die in an emergency, even if you follow this training to the letter. You might get hurt doing some of the exercises suggested, hurt someone else, or be subject to civil or criminal liability if you do anything mentioned in this newsletter. Verify that the actions mentioned are legal where you are before even considering them. This is presented as a tool to help increase your chance of surviving natural and manmade disasters. While we guarantee your satisfaction with the information, we can not guarantee your survival or well-being. The author provides information about his experiences and preparations and gives general information. He is not an accountant, doctor, investment advisor or attorney and is not in the business of advising individuals on their specific situation. If you need specific professional assistance, please contact a local professional.

©COPYRIGHT 2021 TACTICS AND PREPAREDNESS. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS MATERIAL PROTECTED UNDER INTERNATIONAL AND FEDERAL COPYRIGHT LAWS AND TREATIES. ANY UNAUTHORIZED REPRINT OR USE OF THIS MATERIAL IS PROHIBITED. NO PART OF THIS PUBLICATION MAY BE REPRODUCED OR TRANSMITTED IN ANY FORM OR BY ANY MEANS, ELECTRONIC OR MECHANICAL, INCLUDING PHOTOCOPYING, RECORDING, OR BY ANY INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEM WITHOUT EXPRESS WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHOR / PUBLISHER.



PHOTO COURTESY RRCI

intermediate level and higher still benefit from reviewing and nailing the fundamentals during the course. How you spend your time training overall is critical to making you successful. Shooters must apply meaningful reps with purpose-driven drills.

With new equipment we need to gain a sense of familiarity. Shooters have to learn the controls' contours, understand the mechanical aspect of the firearm, and all of the supporting equipment that comes with the rig. We suggest that shooters train with a similar style holster to their previous platform and show up to training with at least three serviceable magazines. We find it best to conduct in a comfortable environment like a classroom to minimize distractions during the familiarization portion. Start by orienting in a safe direction, removing any magazine and locking the slide to the rear using the machined serrations and the slide lock lever to confirm the weapon is clear. It is good practice to allow yourself time to feel the controls and get set up for dry fire practice.

I was taught by world-class shooters and champions that dryfiring is critical to pistol performance. As an instructor and competitive shooter, I believe in that line of thinking now more than ever. Some of the best pro-

fessional shooters make it a point to dry fire their pistols a hundred times to every one round fired on the range. Transitioning to the Sig P320 M17, we recommend beginning the dryfire process from full presentation. Work your way back from full presentation, adding a step along the way until we start from the pistol being in the holster (then start a full iteration draw stroke into a dry fire at full presentation). This practice is an excellent method for building a great draw stroke while gaining comfort in your new holster, and ending with a clean trigger break with perfect fundamentals. If you have taken a class with us, you probably heard me say that there are "157" fundamentals of marksmanship (at least in Army Special Forces) and that I focus on a handful.

Fundamentals: Shooting the M17 is easy if you use the correct sight picture/alignment and proper trigger press. This focus on the fundamentals is consistent for every firearm you pick up and shoot. When I was a young Weapons Sergeant, a Senior 18 Series guy coached me on pistol shooting and told me I was missing my target because I wasn't in an aggressive enough Stance. Looking back now, I realize his image of pistol shooting reminded me of the proverbial "Tactical Turtle"



Acceptable sight picture and smooth trigger work are still the keys to hits with the M17.



and that most SOF guys were terrible pistol shooters. Needless to say, SOF units finally wised up and sought outside influence from competitive shooters who thought about pistol shooting in terms of performance results and not solely combat and camouflage.

Grip and Stance are two fundamentals that help us get "to and through" shots number two and beyond. The nice aspect of the M17 pistol is that it has a more advantageous grip angle and feels a lot more comfortable making a proper grip. Glock shooters may need extra time on the M17 during dryfire to familiarize how to deactivate the manual safety on the draw stroke. I like to teach my students to deactivate their safety when they make their grip on the pistol in the holster. Conversely, we need the shooters to activate their safety as they begin the re-holstering process immediately after the pistol leaves full presenta-

tion. If you shot a Beretta, the de-cocking procedure was started as soon as neared position 3 (retention). Glock shooters never had to be concerned with this activity due to the safety being located on the trigger shoe.

Usually, after an hour or so of dryfire, any shooter is ready to hit the range and make some noise. It's important to use a progressive format building up to culminating exercises. We urge shooters making the M17 transition to work up to complex courses of fire to support safety and overall performance. During the first few magazines of live fire, we

strive to get shooters used to the sights, trigger, grip and stance using the M17. During the training, we suggest working with a scorable target (USPSA or IPCS), shot timer, and utilizing pasties to paste everything outside of the "A" zone.

USEFUL DRILLS

Full Presentation: Loaded and ready, on the start signal fire one round at a time (each timer beep) focusing on clean sights and proper trigger pressing at the three yard, five yard, seven yard and ten yard line. Use four magazines and initiate each volley of fire with the shot timer. After each magazine, paste anything outside of the A zone, focus on accuracy and "feeling" the controls and trigger.

Beginning at retention: Loaded and ready, on the start signal, move the pistol to full presentation and fire one round at a time (each timer beep), focusing on clean sights and proper trigger pressing at the seven yard, 10 yard and 15 yard line (one magazine at each yard line). Use four magazines and initiate each volley of fire with the shot timer. After each magazine, paste anything outside of the A zone.

Beginning at retention: Loaded and ready, on the start signal, move the pistol to full presentation and fire two rounds (controlled pair), focusing on clean sights, proper trigger press, proper grip, and feel the reset of the M17 trigger. This drill is not a race, and shooters must trust the process and be extremely deliberate with this activity. Conduct this drill at seven yards and ten yards over a span of four magazines (two at each yard line).

Holster work/Draw Stroke: Loaded, ready and M17 holstered, on the start signal shoot string drills (2-5 shot strings) at five yards, seven yards, ten yards and 15 yards (one magazine per yard line). Focus on proper draw stroke, deactivating the manual safety, and apply the safety at the end of the engagement before re-holstering. This exercise should begin deliberately at about 25 percent speed and climb towards full combat speed after a few iterations at each yard line.

20A drill (a personal favorite): Loaded, ready and M17 holstered; on the start signal, shoot five rounds at five yards, ten yards, 15 yards and 15yds. This drill is conducted in 5 shot increments and allows shooters to apply different trigger presses appropriate for pre-planned distances. The drill contains four total iterations that have a total round count of 20. When transitioning to a new pistol such as

the M17, we recommend that shooters really focus on this drill, conducting no less than five rounds before moving on to the next shooting exercise.

Plate rack work: Loaded, ready and M17 holstered; on the start signal shoot the plate rack at 10 yards, 15 yards, 20 yards, and 25 yards. We recommend shooting the rack 2-3 times at each specified distance. Shooters will find they are more than likely to figure out the M17's true capability at the 20 and 25 yard line. Our staff members report a high level of accuracy from the M17 pistol.

2x2x2 Magazine Change Drill: Loaded (2 rounds in each magazine), ready and M17 holstered; on the start, signal shoot the A box of a paper IPSC target, and conduct slide lock

reloads until complete. Focus on activating the magazine release button, using the slide release lever, and completing the magazine change on the clock while maintaining A-zone hits. Conduct this drill at the 7 yard line for a total of four magazines.

Transition target drill: Set up three IPSC targets with approximately 2-3 yards in between. Begin the pistol loaded, ready, and holstered; on the start signal, draw and shoot two rounds in each target for a total of six rounds. Run this drill in an iterative format practicing from left to right and right to left. Focus on seeing the target first and bringing the sights to your eyes. Conduct this drill at seven yards and progressively build up speed until attempting to beat your previous time with a

clean run (All A zone hits). Shooters should fire at least four magazines to build capability.

Culminating courses of fire: Shooters at this point in the training session should be hovering around 350-400 rounds fired and well accustomed to the M17. At this point, a short 20 round course of fire mixed with some dynamic movement, paper targets and steel targets are in order. During this activity, shooters should attempt to achieve a clean run and turn up the speed until reaching their maximum performance (clean run while moving with a sense of purpose). This drill should be conducted over and over again to create personal competition, meaning that the shooter is constantly attempting to beat their last score/time or other training participants.

Simply put, shooters at the intermediate level of skill should have little to no problem changing over to the M17. The amount of dry fire practice, live fire, and one day of transition is not the end all be all. This pathway is a great start to mastering the M17 pistol and could be repeated over a series of three to four training sessions with great results. The key to this whole process is accepting the new platform and letting go of the other pistols, especially if this platform is your work gun (DOD). Sig Sauer has come a long way and is well on its way to being the most innovative firearms company on the planet. The M17's modularity sets it up for future modifications and new capabilities.

My final recommendations are these: stick to the fundamentals when attempting to switch pistols or rifle platforms. Believe in the process of deliberate sequential training and conduct purpose-driven repetitions that force you as the shooter to be accountable for each round fired. The fundamentals of marksmanship are the constant in the race for proficiency in arms. The variables are always going to be there; iron sights vs. optics, single-stage triggers vs. two-stage triggers, grip angles etc. Train. Evolve. Compete. ✓

BIO

Brendan Souder is an active duty soldier, a competition shooter, and owner/operator of Range Project Group International (rpg-international.us) in the Panhandle of Florida. RPGi hosts shooting competitions and training courses that leverage the SOF background/competition hybrid model. The views expressed in this article are the opinions of Brendan Souder and do not reflect views of the U.S. Military.

Shooters skilled in the basics will have little trouble adapting to the M17 with purpose driven reps.



PHOTO COURTESY RPGI