

The Marksmanship Principles

Revision

Weapon handling safety rules.

Aim

To teach the new cadet the marksmanship principles, which are to be applied for successful shooting.

Introduction

Successful shooting relies on the cadet / soldier being able to fire a shot without disturbing their aim. To do this they need to apply the marksmanship principles:

1. The position and hold must be firm enough to support the weapon.
2. The weapon must point naturally at the target without undue physical effort.
3. Sight alignment (aiming) must be correct.
4. The shot must be released and followed through without disturbing the position.

Position and Hold



Key points:

- **BUTT:** Place the butt in the right shoulder and hold the rifle using a relaxed (comfortable) grip.

- **BUTT:** The butt should be positioned high in the shoulder and comfortable. It does not go under the arm / in the firer's armpit.
- **LEFT HAND:** The hand guard of the weapon rests on the left palm. The fingers are closed lightly around the hand guard – do not grip tightly – only support the weapon and keep it steady. The left elbow should be positioned as near as possible to directly underneath the weapon.
- **RIGHT HAND:** The right hand grips the pistol grip firmly. You use this hand for doing all the drills on the weapon. Rest your forefinger along the trigger guard – don't touch the trigger until you actually fire the weapon.
- **HEAD:** Rest your right cheek on the cheek piece and look through the rear sight aperture. Your eye should be 25 mm from the aperture.

Sight Alignment (Aiming)



Key points:

- You aim the weapon correctly by lining up...
 - (a) Your aiming eye (usually your right eye)
 - (b) The centre of the rear sight aperture
 - (c) The tip of the foresight blade
 - (d) The point of aim (POA) on the target
- This is called the '4 Point Relationship'.

The Follow Through

Key points:

- Cadets often snatch at the trigger and move between shots. This causes variation between several shots at the same POA – we don't want this – we want to hit the same place on the target every time.
- Fire the weapon by squeezing gently at the trigger. If you gently squeeze the trigger you will find it goes slightly (called the first pressure) then you need to squeeze slightly hard to fire the shot (the second pressure).
- With practice you will be able to hold the trigger at the first pressure, giving you a last opportunity for any slight adjustments, before you take up the second pressure and fire the shot.
- Immediately after firing the shot remain in the aimed position for a few seconds and watch the position of the foresight blade. The foresight blade should settle back at the same POA if you have followed through correctly.

Summary of Key Points

- To fire the weapon accurately you need to apply the 4 marksmanship principles:

1. The position and hold must be firm enough to support the weapon.
2. The weapon must point naturally at the target without undue physical effort.
3. Sight alignment (aiming) must be correct.
4. The shot must be released and followed through without disturbing the position.