

**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**  
Martial Arts Center of Excellence  
The Basic School  
Marine Corps Combat Development Command  
Quantico, Virginia 22134

**DETAILED OUTLINE**

**BAYONET TECHNIQUES**

**INTRODUCTION**

**(3 MIN)**

1. GAIN ATTENTION. Every Marine carrying a rifle is armed with a bayonet. The bayonet can be an effective weapon when a Marine is properly trained. To be fully prepared for combat, the Marine must understand the offensive and defensive techniques that can be executed with a bayonet. Likewise, every Marine is armed with leadership, a skill that is developed and refined throughout an entire career. As you begin your training today you start on the path to becoming a master of the rifle and bayonet and continue the development of your own leadership capabilities.

2. OVERVIEW. This lesson will cover the techniques for training offensive bayonet techniques and defensive bayonet techniques and will discuss the fundamentals of Marine Corps leadership.

3. INTRODUCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES. The Learning Objectives pertaining to this lesson are as follows:

a. TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE.

(1) Without the aid of the reference, given a service rifle with a sheathed bayonet, execute bayonet techniques in accordance with the references. (8550.01.04)

(2) Without the aid of the reference discuss the fundamentals of United States Marine Corps leadership in accordance with the references. (8550.01.20)

b. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES.

(1) Given a service rifle, sheathed bayonet, and without the aid of reference execute a straight thrust in accordance with the references. (8550.01.04a)

(2) Given a service rifle, sheathed bayonet, and without the aid of reference execute a vertical buttstroke in accordance with the references.(8550.01.04b)

(3) Given a service rifle, sheathed bayonet, and without the aid of reference execute a horizontal buttstroke in accordance with the references. (8550.01.04c)

(4) Given a service rifle, sheathed bayonet, and without the aid of reference execute a smash in accordance with the references. (8550.01.04d)

(5) Given a service rifle, sheathed bayonet, and without the aid of reference execute a slash in accordance with the references. (8550.01.04e)

(6) Given a service rifle, sheathed bayonet, and without the aid of reference execute a parry in accordance with the references. (8550.01.04f)

(7) Without the aid of the reference, discuss the primary goal of Marine Corps leadership in accordance with the references. (8550.01.20a)

(8) Without the aid of the refernece, identify the objectives of Marine Corps Leadership in accordance with the references. (8550.01.20b)

4. METHOD/MEDIA. This class will be taught by EDIP and guided discussion.

5. EVALUATION. Topics from this lesson will be evaluated by a performance and oral evaluation.

## **BODY** **(115 MIN)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION TO BAYONET TECHNIQUES** (10 MIN)

a. Holding the Rifle. When executing bayonet techniques, the rifle is held in a modified basic warrior stance. All movement begins and ends with the basic warrior stance. To hold the rifle:

(1) With the right hand, grasp the pistol grip with the trigger finger kept off the trigger and included in the grip.

(2) With the left hand, grasp the handguards of the rifle under-handed.

(3) Lock the buttstock of the rifle against the hip with the right forearm.

(4) Always execute movements with the bayonet blade within a box, shoulder-width across from your neck down to your waistline. The opponent has a greater chance of blocking your attack if you bring the blade in a wide sweeping movement to the opponent. Your attacks should close with the opponent, coming straight to your target. Always keep the bayonet end of the rifle oriented toward the opponent.

b. Safety Precautions During Training. To prevent injury to during training, ensure you follow these safety procedures:

(1) Begin by executing the bayonet techniques in the air. Ensure bayonets are sheathed. Ensure contact is not made with an opponent when doing the target acquisition phase of "air drills".

(2) As you become more proficient, you will be allowed to execute techniques on bayonet dummies or other targets.

(3) Prior to training with a rifle, conduct an "Unload, Show Clear" of the rifle to show students the weapon is not loaded.

(4) Enforce the following four basic safety rules when handling a weapon.

(a) Treat every weapon as if it were loaded.

(b) Never point your weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.

(c) Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you intend to fire.

(d) Keep your weapon on safe until you are ready to fire

## **2. OFFENSIVE BAYONET TECHNIQUES**

(60 MINS)

### **a. Straight Thrust.**

Purpose: The straight thrust is performed to disable or kill an opponent. The thrust is the most deadly offensive technique because it will cause the most trauma to an opponent and is the primary offensive bayonet technique.

(1) Target Areas of the Body. Target areas are the opponent's throat, groin, or face. The opponent's chest and stomach are also excellent target areas if they are not protected by body armor or combat equipment.

(2) Technique. To train the straight thrust, have the student:

(a) Lift their left leg and lunge forward off the ball of their right foot.

(b) At the same time, thrust the blade end of the weapon directly toward the target by thrusting both hands forward. Power is generated by:

[1] Driving and rotating your hips forward.

[2] Driving your body weight in a linear motion toward the target.

(c) Retract the weapon and return to the basic warrior stance by stepping forward with the right foot.

## **b. Buttstroke.**

Purpose: The buttstroke is used to weaken an opponent's defenses, to cause serious injury, or to set him up for a killing blow. The strike is executed with the toe of the stock of the rifle. It is best executed after a thrust but if executed as the initial movement it should be followed by a slash and/or thrust.

(1) Horizontal Buttstroke. The horizontal buttstroke is executed like a hook.

(a) Target Areas of the Body. Target areas are the opponent's head, neck, arms, torso and legs.

(b) Technique. To train the horizontal buttstroke have the student:

[1] Step forward with your right foot and drive the right elbow forward horizontally.

[a] Rotate the hips and shoulders into the strike.

[b] Move the left hand back toward the left shoulder.

[2] Contact is made on the opponent with the toe of the buttstock.

[3] Follow through the target area with the right hand and the butt of the weapon.

## (2) Vertical Buttstroke.

(a) Target Areas of the Body. Target areas are the opponent's groin, torso, arms, and face.

(b) Technique. To train the vertical buttstroke have the student:

[1] Step forward with the right foot, rotate the hips, and drive the right hand straight up.

[2] At the same time, pull the left hand back over the left shoulder.

[3] Contact is made on the opponent with the toe of the stock of the weapon.

[4] Follow through the target area with the right hand and the toe of the stock of the weapon.

## **c. Smash.**

Purpose: The smash is used as a follow-up technique to the horizontal or vertical buttstroke, particularly when the target is missed on the buttstroke or to gain proper striking distance in close-in engagements.

(1) Target Areas of the Body. The target area is the opponent's head, torso or arms.

(2) Technique. To train the smash, have the student:

(a) Begin with the right leg forward and the blade end of the weapon over the left shoulder and the right elbow elevated above the shoulders. Additional power may be generated by extending the left arm further back over the shoulder before executing the smash.

(b) Step forward with the right leg, rotating the hips and drive the arms straight forward, striking the opponent with the butt of the weapon.

[1] The movement can be executed in a short jab.

[2] Or the movement can be followed through completely as you drive the opponent backward or down.

#### **d. Slash.**

Purpose: The slash is used to kill an opponent or to create an opening in his defense. It is used to best advantage in close and should be followed immediately by a thrust.

(1) Target Areas of the Body. The target area is the opponent's neck, torso, arms.

(2) Technique. To train the slash, have the student:

(a) Retract the left hand back toward the left shoulder. The hand should not be back as far as it is when executing a smash.

(b) Thrust the left hand forward diagonally to the right while bringing the right hand back toward the hip.

[1] At the same time, turn the cutting edge of the blade toward the target area.

[2] The movement should be in a slashing motion so the blade cuts across the target area.

(c) Follow through the target area with the left hand and the blade of the weapon.

### **3. DEFENSIVE BAYONET TECHNIQUES**

(15 MIN)

**a. Parry.**

Purpose: A parry is used as a defensive technique to redirect or deflect an attack in preparation for executing a thrust or other appropriate offensive bayonet technique. It is used against a linear attack such as a straight thrust or a smash. A parry is a slight redirection of a linear attack by an opponent. To train the parry, have the student:

- (1) With the weapon locked against the hip with the right forearm, rotate the body to the right or left, moving the bayonet end of the rifle to parry the opponent's attack. Rotation should generate from the hips.
- (2) Contact is made with the bayonet end of the rifle against the barrel or bayonet of the opponent's weapon.
- (3) Redirect or guide the opponent's weapon away from your body by exerting pressure against the opponent's weapon with your weapon.
  - (a) The parry should be executed with an economy of motion.
  - (b) You only need to redirect the opponent's weapon a couple of inches to have the weapon miss your body.

**5. FUNDAMENTALS OF MARINE CORPS LEADERSHIP. (15 MINS)**

a. General A. M. Gray, the 29th Commandant of the Marine Corps, once stated that even if there are only two Marines together, one of them is always senior. What this means is that sooner or later all Marines will find themselves in leadership positions. Because of this, Marine Corps leadership transcends rank and billet. Each of us must be prepared to step up and assume the mantle of leadership, and each of us must set the example for others.

b. The most important responsibility in our Corps is to lead Marines. Marine Corps leadership is what has made Marines successful in war and peace for over two centuries. Many things make the Marine Corps unique from other military organizations. One of the most important of these is our leadership philosophy. All Marines are considered leaders and our philosophy of leadership is the same from private to commandant.

c. Because of this concept Marines begin their leadership training and development as part of the process of becoming a Marine. While undergoing recruit or OCS training leadership development begins. This is done through lectures such as this and other classes, by the example of your Drill Instructors and Officers, and by practical application. Within each platoon recruits and officer candidates are assigned as guides and squad leaders as well as other leadership billets. Each method is designed to introduce you to Marine Corps leadership.

d. With the above concept in mind we need to discuss the goal of Marine Corps leadership and its objectives.

(1) The primary goal of Marine Corps leadership is to instill in all Marines the fact that we are warriors first. The United States of America doesn't need a Marine Corps, it wants one. We exist because of our special trust that has developed between the Corps and the Nation. That trust is rooted in the fact that the Nation expects us to fight and win the Nation's battles while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism.

(2) To meet the goal of leadership we must understand the objectives of Marine Corps leadership. Mission accomplishment and troop welfare. No matter what Marines will do whatever is necessary to accomplish the mission. This drive to succeed is expressed by our Core Value of commitment. No matter how easy or difficult the task we stay the course until completed with bulldog tenacity. At the same time we take care of our Marines because they are the ones who make the accomplishment of the mission possible.

e. We talk about leadership now while working on our combat skills because leadership is as important to a warrior as his ability to fight. In fact all experienced warriors would tell you that leadership and the individual character from which it flows are even more important than physical skills. As you study and apply leadership you will have aids to assist you and guide you. You will learn about our leadership traits which are what make up the character of a warrior. You will also learn our leadership principles which tell the leader what he should be doing when applying leadership. At the same time you will learn about Marine Corps Core Values which further guide the leader. The key is not only to learn and study these guides but to live them and apply them at all times.

**SUMMARY:** \_\_\_\_\_ (2 MIN)

As you leave the practice field today, keep in mind that each of you is a leader, trained in lethal bayonet techniques. Whether offensively or defensively, you have been trained to defeat the enemy with a weapon that we all carry. Likewise, while you may not currently be filling a leadership billet you still have a responsibility to conduct yourself as a leader and set the example for others. Marines, especially those junior to you, are always watching the example you set, both in word and in action. There have been countless instances in combat when privates and privates first class and young officers have found themselves suddenly thrust in charge of squads, platoons, and companies while engaged in a life or death struggle with the enemy. They did not hesitate, they simply did what Marines before them have done, they took charge and accomplished the mission. You need to be prepared to do no less.