

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

**DETAILED OUTLINE**

**RESPONSIBLE USE OF FORCE**

**INTRODUCTION** \_\_\_\_\_(3 MIN)

1. GAIN ATTENTION. During your transformation into becoming a United States Marine you have started your training in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. You have begun to develop the martial skills, mental attitude and warrior spirit. It is essential that as you develop the physical expertise of our art you also embrace its mental and spiritual aspects. This blending of the three elements of the Marine Corps Martial Art will ensure that you cannot only fight as a warrior but also conduct yourself as one. When you have mastered this program you will have the skill to defeat any enemy on the battlefield and know when to walk away from a confrontational situation. This is the responsible use of force.
2. OVERVIEW. This lesson will cover your responsibilities as a warrior for the responsible use of force.
3. LESSON PURPOSE. This lesson covers the assessment of Temper and Intent in any given situation. The purpose of this lesson is to provide the knowledge to the Marine of how to evaluate situations before reacting to them.
4. METHOD/MEDIA. This period of instruction will be taught by lecture.

**BODY** \_\_\_\_\_(25 MIN)

**1. RESPONSIBLE USE OF FORCE** (10 MIN)

- a. Situation. As you hone your martial arts skills, you need to be aware that you will find yourself confronted with situations from combat and military operations other than war, to those that occur during your off-duty time while on leave or liberty. How you react to each situation will be guided in each case by the same guiding principles. These guiding principles are rooted in our core values.
- b. Moral Principles. The responsible use of force is tied

to the following moral principles:

(1) Service Before Self. A Marine is a warrior-defender, willing to give his life for the life of others. Where a Marine walks, people are safer. A Marine is the defender of others, rather than defender of one's self.

(2) Equality. In any type of mission, a Marine must believe that the people he is protecting are equal to him and that his life and the lives of his loved ones are as important to him as those people's lives are to them.

(3) Core Values. Marines embody the core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Marines must be physically, mentally, and morally fit to uphold these values.

(a) Honor. "The bedrock of our character. The quality that guides Marines to exemplify the ultimate in ethical and moral behavior; to never lie, cheat or steal; to abide by an uncompromising code of integrity; to respect human dignity; to have respect and concern for each other. The quality of maturity, dedication, trust, and dependability that commits Marines to act responsibly; to be accountable for actions; to fulfill obligations and to hold others accountable for their actions."

(b) Courage. "The heart of our core values, courage is the mental, moral, and physical strength ingrained in Marines to carry them through the challenges of combat and the mastery of fear; to do what is right; to adhere to a higher standard of personal conduct; to lead by example and to make tough decisions under stress and pressure. It is the inner strength that enables a Marine to take that extra step."

(c) Commitment. "The spirit of determination and dedication within members of a force of arms that leads to professionalism and mastery of the art of war. It leads to the highest order of discipline for unit and self; it is the ingredient that enables 24-hour a day dedication to Corps and Country; pride, concern for others; and an uncompromising determination to achieve a standard of excellence in every endeavor. Commitment is the value that establishes the Marine as the warrior and citizen others strive to emulate."

**2. TEMPER AND INTENT**

(5 MIN)

In order to respond appropriately to a situation, the Marine must be able to quickly assess the temper and intent of the person so he can make a judgment as to the person's intended actions.

a. Temper. Temper refers to a person's emotional state. Emotional state can be inferred from physical behavior such as yelling, crying, nervousness, uneasiness, calmness, jolly, aggressiveness, etc.

b. Intent. Intent refers to a person's intended actions. Intent can be inferred from physical behavior that is more action-oriented such as running, hitting, carrying or drawing a weapon, reaching for a purse, etc. Intent can also be inferred from a person's equipment or clothing. Does the person's clothing and belongings conform with his reason for being there?

c. Assessing Temper and Intent. The Marine's response to a situation depends on his assessment of temper and intent.

(1) The Marine constantly assesses temper and intent of every person he comes into contact with.

(2) Assessment becomes more focused when the Marine observes something out of the ordinary.

(3) Temper and intent must be assessed very quickly to determine the threat a subject poses and the way the Marine will challenge or react to the person.

(4) Throughout any situation or confrontation, temper and intent must be constantly reevaluated and the Marine must adjust his actions accordingly.

### **3. PRACTICAL SITUATIONS**

(10 MIN)

As a Marine the first situation you may find yourself in where you must react as a warrior may not be on the battlefield but while on liberty. In our daily lives we interact with fellow Marines, our families, friends, and the civilian population. Sooner or later you may find yourself in a potential confrontation that could range from a minor disagreement, domestic dispute, road rage, potential fight up to and including a riot. As a warrior you must be prepared to respond to each of these situations. Listed in descending order are options available for a warrior to take in order to arrive at a peaceful solution.

- a. Identify a possible confrontational situation before you become involved and leave the area if possible.
- b. If you have become involved attempt to remove yourself from the situation as quickly as possible.
- c. If unable to leave or if extenuating circumstances prevent you from leaving attempt to deescalate the situation. Do not become confrontational yourself.
- d. If you find yourself being assaulted or attacked, immediately take charge of the situation by using the minimum amount of force necessary.
- e. Be aware that alcohol and emotion do not mix and further aggravate a confrontational situation. A Marine does not lose control of himself. He is a warrior whose mastery of Marine Corps Martial Arts allows him to control himself, his emotions and the situation.

**SUMMARY** \_\_\_\_\_ (1 MIN)

This lesson covered the responsible use of force, the assessment of temper and intent, and the practical application of the responsible use of force in your daily life. As a Marine you have begun the journey through life as a warrior. Possessing skill with the techniques to effectively use force as needed against another human being are part what makes you a warrior. However, as a warrior you are incomplete if you do not combine the mental and spiritual disciplines of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program with the physical discipline. And you are not a true warrior if you cannot recognize when to not use force or, when necessary, how to use that force responsibly. As you progress in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program we will build upon this basic understanding of the responsible use of force to include its application in military operations other than war and in combat.