

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

**DETAILED OUTLINE**

**WEAPONS OF OPPORTUNITY**

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

1. GAIN ATTENTION. On the battlefield, a Marine should be ready to use anything around him as a weapon. This may mean picking up a stick, rock, shell fragment, e-tool, his equipment or anything found on the battlefield that can be used as a weapon. To be effective, the Marine must learn and be able to use techniques that can be employed with most weapons of opportunity. The ability to adapt and operate under any circumstance that is a part of our legacy will also be discussed by the use of a specific example during the last portion of this class. We will discuss a select Warrior Study that that explains the actions of an ordinary Marine who accomplished extraordinary feats.

2. OVERVIEW. This lesson will cover weapons of opportunity, blocking and striking techniques with weapons of opportunity, and a pre-selected Warrior Study.

3. INTRODUCE LEARNING OBJECTIVES: The learning objectives pertaining to this lesson are as follows:

a. TERMINAL LEARNING OBJECTIVE.

(1) Given training sticks, a senario, and without the aid of references, employ weapons of opportunity in accordance with the references. (8550.01.16)

(2) Without the aid of references, participate in a warrior study in accordance with the references. (8550.01.22)

b. ENABLING LEARNING OBJECTIVES.

(1) Given training sticks, a senario, and without the aid of references, **identify objects that could be used as weapons of opportunity** in accordance with the references. (8550.01.16a)

(2) Given training sticks, a senario, and without the aid of references, **execute a straight thrust** in accordance with the references. (8550.01.16b)

(3) Given training sticks, a senario, and without the aid of references, **execute a block to a straight thrust** in accordance with the references. (8550.01.16c)

(4) Without the aid of references, **discuss Marine Corps values** demonstrated by the Marine involved in the warrior study in accordance with the references. (8550.01.22a)

(5) Without the aid of references, **discuss the leadership principles and traits** demonstrated by the Marine involved in the warrior study in accordance with the references. (8550.01.22b)

4. METHOD/MEDIA. This class will be taught using EDIP and Guided Discussion.

5. EVALUATION. This lesson will evaluated by performance and oral evaluation when requirements are met.

**BODY** \_\_\_\_\_ **(55 MIN)**

**1. INTRODUCTION TO WEAPONS OF OPPORTUNITY** (5 MIN)

In any unarmed close combat situation, a Marine can rely on his body as a weapon. In addition, a Marine should be ready and able to use anything around him to serve as a weapon. This may mean throwing sand or liquid in an opponents eyes to temporarily impair his vision so that fatal damage can be done to his head with a rock, e-tool, helmet, or anything that is readily available to the Marine. In a confrontation, a Marine must use whatever it takes to win, or face the very real possibility of losing his life. Some weapons of opportunity include:

- a. Entrenching Tool (E-Tool). Marines commonly carry an e-tool; it can be an excellent weapon, especially when sharpened. The e-tool can be used to block, slash, smash, and thrust at an opponent. Additionally, pioneer gear from vehicles such as a shovel, axe, pry bar, pick, etc, may also be used
- b. Tent Pole and Pins. Tent poles and pins can be used to block, strike, or thrust at an opponent.
- c. Web or Rigger's Belt. A web rigger's belt can be stretched between your hands and used to block an opponent's attack and it can also be an effective choking weapon. A sling or rope from a tent can also be used effectively for these purpose.
- d. Debris on the Battlefield. Debris on the battlefield such as sticks, glass, or any sharp piece of metal may be used to cut, slash, or stab an opponent. Other debris such as an ammo can, piece of shrapnel , boards, metal pipe, or broken rifles may be used to strike an opponent or apply a choke.
- e. Helmet. The helmet should primarily be used to protect the Marine's head; however, a helmet can also be used to strike an opponent on an unprotected area like the head and face. The helmet can be grasped by the rim with both hands, thrust with arms forward, to strike your opponent or it can be swung using a firm one hand grip.

## **2. SAFETY PERCAUTIONS DURING TRAINING**

(5 MIN)

To prevent injury to students during weapons of opportunity training, ensure the following:

- a. Ensure the students do not practice the techniques at full speed or with full body contact.
- b. Train the practical application portion of weapons of opportunity in three stages:
  - (1) Begin with the students executing the techniques "in the air."

Do not allow students to make contact on an opponent or a target during the initial stages of training.

(2) Allow students to execute strikes against equipment, such as a bayonet dummy, heavy bag, or some locally produced target.

(3) As students become more proficient, allow them to pair up and face each other as they perform the blocking and striking techniques. Ensure the students do not execute the striking techniques at full speed or full force.

c. Execute techniques slowly at first and increase speed as proficiency is developed.

### **3. PRINCIPLES OF WEAPONS OF OPPORTUNITY**

(15 MIN)

Principle of Employment. The principles of employment of weapons of opportunity will depend upon the type of weapon used. Depending upon its shape, many of the techniques used for employing rifle and bayonet, knife, and baton can be adapted for use with a weapon of opportunity. In cases where this does not apply the basic principles of angles of attack, stance, movement, and target areas are still applicable.

a. Angles of Attack. There are six angles from which an attack with a hand-held weapon can be launched:

(1) Vertical strike coming straight down on an opponent.

(2) Forward diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the opponent.

(3) Reverse diagonal strike coming in at a 45-degree angle to the opponent.

(4) Forward horizontal strike coming in parallel to the deck.

(5) Reverse horizontal strike coming in parallel to the deck.

(6) Forward thrust coming in a straight linear line to the opponent.

b. Weapons of Opportunity Grip, Stance, and Movement.

(1) Grip. If the weapon is in the form of a stick, ideally you would like to grasp it about two inches from its base. If it is an e-tool, ideally you would like to grasp it just above the handle, so that it can be easily manipulated.

(a) As stated earlier, a Marine is only limited by his ingenuity and resourcefulness. With that said, in regards to other implements that may be used as a weapon of opportunity, the Marine should grasp it so that it can be easily manipulated.

(2) Stance. The basic warrior stance serves as the foundation from which all weapons of opportunity techniques are initiated.

(a) The lead hand serves as a vertical shield protecting the ribs, neck, and head.

(b) Depending on how heavy the weapon is, it should be held at a level approximately shoulder height.

(3) Movement. Movement is the same as it is for other Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques. Consider a 360-degree circle around an opponent. You can move anywhere in this circle to gain a tactical advantage and make accessible different target areas of your opponent's body.

(a) When facing an opponent, movement is made in a 45-degree angle to either side of the opponent.

(b) Moving at a 45-degree angle is the best way to both avoid an opponent's strike and to put yourself in the best position to attack an opponent.

**4. STRIKING AND BLOCKING TECHNIQUES.**

(15 MIN)

a. Striking Technique. To execute this technique, weapons should be placed in a two-handed carry, with lead hand placed on front portion of weapon within two inches from the tip,

rear hand locked into the hip, palm inboard within two inches from the base. The weapon should be pulled slightly up with the lead hand.

(1) Straight Thrust. This strike is effective for countering a frontal attack; it can also be executed as a quick poke to keep a subject away from you, puncture the abdominal area, or for breaking bones along the rib cage. To train the straight thrust, have the student:

- (a) Stand facing the opponent with the weapon in a two-handed carry.
- (b) Thrust both hands forward in a quick jab.
- (c) The weapon is held either horizontal to the deck or at a slight upward angle.
- (d) Slight movement of feet are good to close distance or generate power.

b. Blocking Technique. To execute this technique, weapons should be placed in a one-handed carry in the rear hand; weapon locked to the hip maintaining modified basic warrior stance.

(1) Block for a straight thrust. This block is effective for blocking a linear attack or thrusting motion toward the frontal portion of the body. To train the block for a straight thrust, have the student:

- (a) Stand facing the opponent with the weapon in a one-handed carry, maintaining modified basic warrior stance.
- (b) As opponent executes a straight thrust or linear attack toward the frontal portion of the body, step forward with the right foot while striking and redirecting the attack off to the left side.
- (c) Control the opponent's arm or wrist by trapping or grasping it with your left hand.

## **SUMMARY**

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(2 MIN)

On the battlefield, a Marine should be ready to use anything around him as a weapon. Weapons of opportunity techniques can be used with a stick, e-tool, or even his riggers belt. This lesson covered weapons of opportunity to include striking techniques and blocking techniques. If a Marine does not have a weapon and is confronted by an adversary, he must use any means available to fight to win. Armed with the knowledge that we just covered may mean your survival or, more importantly, that of your fellow Marines... just like it did for the Marine who was the subject of the Warrior Study. This Marine by his actions ensured left a legacy that you, by your actions, must continue into the future to ensure that the Marine Corps remains the world's finest fighting force.