

# **First Battalion, Idaho Light Foot Militia.**

## **TRAINING PLAN**

### **Basic Fire Arms Safety**

The purpose of this training is to complete the requirements for skill level "RECRUIT", IAW the Light Foot Militia standard. This training is intended to be a refresher training for current members and training for new members to train them in fire arms safety. Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be qualified to receive the militia rank of private (one chevron). The rank of private will be worn on the member's uniform as a visible marker to inform others that the member wearing the marker is qualified in fire arms safety.

### **Training overview:**

- A. The four rules of fire arms safety.**
- B. Weapons conditions.**
- C. Field stripping, assembly, repair and cleaning of the AR-15 Rifle.**
- D. Loading, clearing and malfunctions.**
- E. Weapons commands.**
- F. Live fire, militia basic rifle qualification.**

### **A.The four rules of fire arms safety:**

#### **1. Treat every weapon as if it were loaded.**

When a Militiaman takes charge of an unattended or attended rifle in any situation, he must treat the weapon as if it were loaded, determine its condition, and continue applying the other safety rules.

## **2. Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire.**

A target must be identified before taking the weapon off safe and moving the finger to the trigger.

## **3. Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.**

Maintain muzzle awareness at all times.

## **4. Be aware of what is around your target and beyond your target.**

If the militia is engaged in actual combat, it is very likely that the battle space will be an urban battle space. The battle space will have a mixture of “bad guys” and the people that we are sworn to protect.

## **B. Weapons conditions**

A weapon's readiness is described by one of four conditions. The steps in the loading and unloading process take the rifle through four specific conditions of readiness for live fire.

### **Condition 1**

A. Loaded magazine inserted.

B. Round in chamber.

C. Bolt forward.

**D. Safety on.**

**E. Ejection port cover closed.**

## **Condition 2**

**Not applicable to the AR 15 rifle.**

## **Condition 3**

**A. Loaded Magazine inserted.**

**B. Chamber empty.**

**C. Bolt forward.**

**D. Safety on.**

**E. Ejection port cover closed.**

## **Condition 4**

**A. Magazine removed.**

**B. Chamber empty.**

**C. Bolt forward.**

**D. Safety on.**

**E. Ejection port cover closed.**

## **C. Field stripping, assembling, repair and cleaning of the AR-15 rifle**

- **Demonstrate disassembly of AR-15 rifle.**
- **Each participant is to disassemble and reassemble their rifles.**

## **D. Loading, clearing and malfunctions**

### **Filling the Magazine with Loose Rounds**

- Place a round on top of the follower.
- Press down until the round is held between the follower and feed lips of the magazine

The recommended number of rounds per magazine is 28 or 29. Thirty rounds in the magazine may prohibit the magazine from seating properly on a closed bolt.

- Tap the back of the magazine to ensure the rounds are seated against the back of the magazine.

### **Filling the Magazine Using a 10-round Stripper Clip and Magazine Filler**

- Slide the magazine filler into place.
- Place a 10-round stripper clip into the narrow portion of the magazine filler.
- Using thumb pressure on the rear of the top cartridge, press down firmly until all ten rounds are below the feed lips of the magazine.
- Tap the back of the magazine to ensure the rounds are seated against the back of the magazine.

## **Storing Magazines**

- Magazine Pouch. Store loaded magazines with the open end down.
- If right handed, the bullets are to be pointing to the right.
- If left handed, the bullets are to be pointing to the left.

- **Empty or Partially Filled Magazines.** Empty or partially filled magazines are stored with the follower up to allow the selection of filled magazines by touch (i.e., at night).

## **Reloading the Rifle**

### **Principles of Reloading:**

- The first priority when performing a reload is to get the rifle reloaded and back into action.
- The second priority when performing a reload is to retain the magazine so when you move, the magazine moves with you.
- When time permits, retain magazines securely on your person (e.g., in magazine pouch, flak jacket, cargo pockets, dump pouch).
- The combat situation may dictate dropping the magazine to the deck when performing a reload. This is acceptable as long as it is picked up before moving to another location.

### **Reloading:**

- Take cover before reloading. Always reload before leaving cover to take advantage of the protection provided by cover.
- Every effort should be made not to reload on the move. When moving, your focus should be on moving.
- When reloading, your focus should be on reloading only. Do not focus on the enemy; focus instead on the magazine change.
- When reloading, draw the weapon in close to your body so you can see what you are doing and retain positive control of the magazine.
- When the new magazine is inserted, tug on it to ensure it is seated. Do not slam the magazine into the weapon hard enough to cause a round to partially pop out of the magazine. This action can cause a double feed and require remedial action.

- **Retain your empty magazines.** When there is a lull in the action, refill those magazines so they will be available for future use.
- **During a lull in the action, replace your magazine when you know you are low on ammunition.** This ensures a full magazine of ammunition in the rifle should action resume. Do not wait until the magazine is completely empty to replace it.

## **Condition 1 Reload:**

A Condition 1 reload is performed when the weapon is in Condition 1 by replacing the magazine before it runs out of ammunition. (Also known as an admin reload.)

**To perform a Condition 1 reload, perform the following steps:**

- **Engage the safety.**
- **Remove the partially filled magazine and retain it on your person, if time permits.**
- **Withdraw a filled magazine from the magazine pouch.**
- **Fully insert the filled magazine into the magazine well and tug downward on the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.** (with the bolt closed a full magazine will need a little more force to insert due to the ammo stack in the magazine pressing against the bottom of the bolt)

## **Dry Reload:**

A dry reload is required when the magazine in the weapon has been emptied and the bolt has locked to the rear.

**To perform a dry reload:**

- **Engage the safety.**
- **Remove the empty magazine and retain it on your person if time permits.**
- **Fully insert a filled magazine into the magazine well.**

- Release or press the bolt catch to allow the bolt carrier to move forward. This places the rifle in Condition 1.

## **Remedial Action**

If the rifle fails to fire, a Militiaman performs remedial action. Remedial action is investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation.

## **Observe for Indicators**

Once the rifle ceases firing, the Militiaman must visually or physically observe the weapon to identify the problem before he can clear it. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on the following three indicators:

**(1) Indicator - The bolt is forward or the ejection port cover is closed. To clear the weapon:**

- Tap - Tap the bottom of the magazine.
- Rack - Pull the charging handle to the rear and release it.
- Bang - Sight in and attempt to fire.
- Keep the muzzle pointed safely down range at all times.

**(2) Indicator - The bolt is locked to the rear.**

- Conduct a reload.
- Sight in and attempt to fire.
- Same procedure as a dry re-load.

**(3) Indicator - Brass is obstructing the chamber area (usually indicating a double feed or failure to eject).**

**To clear the weapon:**

- Attempt to remove the magazine.
- Attempt to lock the bolt to the rear.
- If the bolt will not lock to the rear, rotate the rifle so the ejection port is facing down; hold the charging handle to the rear as far as it will go and shake the rifle to free the round(s). If the rounds do not shake free, hold the charging handle to the rear and strike the butt of the rifle on the ground or manually clear the round.
- Conduct a reload.
- Sight in and attempt to fire.

#### **(4) Indicator-Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil.**

An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propellant is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced recoil and a lower report. This is sometimes accompanied by excessive smoke escaping from the chamber area.

- Place the rifle in Condition 4.
- Remove the bolt carrier group.
- Inspect the bore for an obstruction from the chamber end.
- Insert a cleaning rod into the bore from the muzzle end and clear the obstruction.
- Replace the bolt carrier group.
- Conduct a reload.
- Sight in and attempt to fire.



# **Weapons Commands**

Weapons commands dictate the specific steps required to load and unload the rifle. Six commands are used in weapons handling:

## **LOAD**

- This command is used to take the weapon from Condition 4 to Condition 3.
- Withdraw a loaded magazine from the magazine pouch.
- Fully insert the magazine in the magazine well.
- Close the ejection port cover.
- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction (down range) at all times.

## **Make Ready**

- This command is used to take the weapon from Condition 3 to Condition 1.
- Pull the charging handle to the rear and release.
- To ensure ammunition has been chambered, conduct a chamber check if the tactical situation permits.
- Close the ejection port cover.

## **Fire**

- This command is used to specify when a militiaman may engage targets.
- On the command "Fire," aim the rifle, take the rifle off safe, (condition 0) and pull the trigger.

## **Cease Fire**

- This command is used to specify when a militiaman must stop target engagement.
- Place your trigger finger straight along the receiver.
- Place the weapon on safe.

- Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, down range.

## **Unload**

- This command is used to take the weapon from any condition to Condition 4.
- Place the weapon on safe.
- Remove the magazine from the rifle and retain it on your person.
- While cupping the left hand under the ejection port, rotate the weapon until the ejection port is facing down.
- Pull the charging handle to the rear and catch the round in the left hand
- Lock the bolt to the rear.
- Ensure the chamber is empty and no ammunition is present.
- Release the charging handle and observe the bolt moving forward on an empty chamber
- Close the ejection port cover.

## **Unload and Show Clear**

- Unload the weapon.
- Have a second party inspect the weapon to ensure no ammunition is present
- After receiving acknowledgment that the rifle is clear, release the bolt catch and observe the bolt moving forward on an empty chamber.
- Close the ejection port cover.

**Take a 10 minute break. Live fire exercise to commence immediately following the break.**

- **The live fire exercise will be the basic rifle qualification IAW Light Foot Militia standard.**
- **The COF is 10 rounds, with 1 reload at 50 yards. Use 2 magazines with 5 rounds each.**
- **The shooter may use the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone positions at the shooter's preference.**
- **The time limit to shoot 10 rounds is 5 minutes.**
- **To qualify, the shooter must hit minimum of 8 out of 10 rounds.**
- **The target is a 8-1/2" x 11" standard sheet of paper mounted to the target board in the "portrait" orientation.**