

Practical Riot Shotgun Course Introduction

A. Purpose.

To teach personnel how to safely and effectively use the Remington Model 870 Shotgun in the performance of their assigned duties. Proper procedures for safe handling, operation (loading and unloading), and immediate action to correct malfunctions and stoppages shall be emphasized.

1. Personnel who are to be armed with an M870 in their assigned duties are required to qualify with the weapon on this course.
2. The Practical Riot Shotgun Course (PRSC) is designed for Coast Guard personnel to use marksmanship fundamentals from the 25-yard and the 12-yard line in various tactical positions, while observing all safety rules.

B. Definitions.

1. Practice Firing. The live firing of weapons for training other than on a prescribed course.
2. Familiarization Firing. The live firing of a specific Coast Guard course in sequence to familiarize the person with the course of fire, the positions, time limits, etc., of that course.
3. Firing for Record. The firing of a course for qualification.
4. Phase of Fire. Identifies the distance (yard line) a particular stage is being fired from in the course.
Example: *Phase 2 fired from 7-yard line.*
5. Stage of Fire. Advises the shooter of the “type of fire” expected in that Phase of the course.
Examples: *“Strong Hand Supported,” “Ready to Offhand Barricade position.”*
6. String of Fire. A timed segment of fire within the Stage.
Examples: *3 rounds in 8 seconds, 2 rounds in 4 seconds, 2 rounds in 4 seconds.*

NOTE: Personnel SHALL NOT be issued any small arm(s) for live fire training unless under the direct supervision of an SAI (HH qualification code).

C. Prefire Instructions.

Prefire instructions (per chapter 8) are **mandatory** and shall be conducted prior to firing the Practical Riot Shotgun Course.

D. Instructor Notes.

1. Level II personnel assigned to be armed with a shotgun must qualify on this course at a minimum every 6 months. Level III personnel must qualify, at a minimum, annually. Entry level (Level I) personnel shall not fire the PRSC.
2. Range personnel shall inspect all weapons and equipment before range training, (including all ancillary equipment) to ensure safe condition, proper operation, and that no unauthorized modifications are present.
3. Safety regulations shall be read and explained by the SAI. Safety is the primary consideration in all training involving the use of weapons and ammunition
4. During instruction and firing, emphasis will be placed on the safe handling of the weapon. **Consider all weapons as loaded, regardless of perceived or actual condition.**

NOTE: Violation of any safety regulation WILL NOT be tolerated and is cause for removal from the firing line.

5. Dry-fire training shall be conducted to familiarize personnel with the operation of the weapon and optimum positions (use of barricades, positions, etc.) prior to live firing exercises.
6. All shotguns will have slings attached both for training and operations. During this course the sling shall remain on the weapon, but is not used.
7. Hearing protection, eye protection, and ball caps shall be worn.
8. The number of rounds fired during any timed stage must be strictly adhered to. The firing of early or late rounds will result in the loss of nine points for each round fired early or late.
9. Repeated flagrant disregard for the time requirements shall result in the shooter being removed from the firing line.

10. If time permits, individuals removed from the line may receive remedial training in basic marksmanship and weapon fundamentals until the SAI determines that basic standards of qualification and safety have been met. If time does not permit remedial training immediately, these individuals will not be allowed to participate in the PRSC training until remedial training has been received.
11. Rounds not fired due to shooter performance (e.g. too slow, or failure to attempt to clear a malfunction etc.) shall not be fired, but taken away.
12. Dropped rounds shall be taken by coaches. Shooters may receive these rounds back provided they take immediate action to retrieve another round from their ammunition pouch. Extra time for such events will not be granted.
13. The required target is the GREEN TRANSTAR II.
14. Two separate targets will be used, one to score 00 buckshot hits, and one to score slug hits. If separate targets are unavailable, targets should be resurfaced before beginning phase two.
15. Prior to firing, shooters shall don appropriate gear (e.g., watch uniform, boarding gear and equipment, body armor, life vests, mustang suits, etc.). This requirement is **mandatory**. Warm or cold weather gear shall be selected as unit patrols dictate.

E. PRSC Prefire.

1. General Weapons Safety. Safety is the most important aspect of weapons handling and training. Safety rules and procedures must be followed **at all times!** The following general weapons safety rules apply at all times to any weapon, be it on the range, a boarding, a ship, at a station, or even at home.
 - a. Four Weapons Safety Rules. Everyone who handles weapons **SHALL** memorize these four weapons safety rules, and should recite them verbatim. Training in the four safety rules must be repetitive to ensure automatic adherence when the individual is handling weapons.
 - (1) **Treat every weapon as if it is loaded, regardless of perceived or actual condition.** This rule is intended to prevent unintentional injury or damage due to careless handling of weapons or perceived low risk. Treat every weapon with the respect due a loaded weapon.

- (2) **Keep your weapon pointed in a safe direction at all times. NEVER point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.** This rule is to reinforce the importance of muzzle control and muzzle awareness. When at the range, the safe direction is down range; in the line of duty, the safe direction is any direction that does not cross the path of another person or vessel. ALWAYS handle a weapon so that you control the direction of the muzzle, even if you stumble.
 - (3) **Keep your weapon on safe until aimed in on target and the decision to shoot has been made.** (M9 PDW is the only exception to this rule). This rule is to enforce the use of the weapon's own safety feature.
 - (4) **Keep your finger outside the trigger guard, indexed along the receiver, until the decision to shoot has been made.** This rule is intended to minimize accidental discharge due to an individual being startled, bracing in a fall, or experiencing a rush of adrenalin.
- b. Surroundings. ALWAYS be aware of your surroundings when handling weapons. Know what and who is around you.
- c. Safeties. The **M870**, as used in the Practical Riot Shotgun Course, will be carried in the standard method of carry with the **safety in the safe position** (protruding to the right as you look down at the top of the weapon) until you are aimed in on target and the decision to fire has been made.
- d. Clear Weapon. A cleared M870 is one with:
- (1) The safety in the safe position, protruding out on the right side of the shotgun. (Looking down from the top)
 - (2) The fore-end (action) to the rear (bolt in the open position so the inside of the chamber is visible).
 - (3) No brass or round in the chamber and no rounds in the magazine tube.

NOTE: A cleared condition is the only condition you SHALL GIVE, RECEIVE, or BENCH a weapon.

- e. Push/Pull Method. To ensure that a weapon is clear, you SHALL utilize the push/pull method.

- (1) With the weapon pointed in a safe direction and level to the deck, **push** the weapon away from you. Inspect chamber area of the weapon to ensure it is clear and contains no brass or ammunition. You should not see any obstructions in the chamber.
- (2) Keeping the weapon pointed in a safe direction and level to the deck, **pull** the weapon to you and look down at the magazine tube, magazine tube and carrier should be clear.
- (3) Once you have determined the weapon is clear, **check it again** to be sure that you were right the first time.

NOTE: The push/pull method SHALL be utilized each time you pick up or bench a weapon to ensure that it is clear, regardless of actual or perceived condition.

- f. Carrying Weapons. Weapons carried away from the shooting area, or otherwise not in use, must always be **cleared** and have the action open, or they should be cased.
- g. Clear Bore. ALWAYS be sure that the barrel and action are clear of any obstructions and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the weapon you are using.
- h. Target Identification. **Be sure of your target!** Before you squeeze the trigger positively identify your target. If positive identification of the target has not been made, **DO NOT FIRE!**

WARNING: NEVER point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.

- i. Weapons Security. Weapons will be **under direct supervision at all times!** Weapons not in use **SHALL be cleared**. Cased weapons will also be supervised at all times. Weapons and ammunition will be store separately.
- j. Backstops. NEVER shoot at a flat, hard surface or the surface of inland water. When shooting at targets, be sure that your backstop is adequate. ALWAYS know your **target**, your **backstop**, and **beyond**.

- k. Drugs and Medication. Personnel with medical problems or who have a chronic illness that requires medication (medications that carry warnings not to drive, for example) which may affect ability to handle weapons, or affect reaction times and/or judgment, shall be excluded from weapons training. Certain drugs and medications may temporarily impair sight and reflexes and should be avoided before and during shooting. DO NOT drink alcoholic beverages before or during any weapons handling or shooting activities. It is the shooter's responsibility to inform the SAI of medical conditions and medication concerns.
2. General Range Safety. These rules apply to any range situation and must be followed and enforced at all times on all ranges.
- a. Hearing protection, eye protection, and ball caps shall be worn on and in the vicinity of the firing line.
 - b. Everything on the range shall be done on command. DO NOT anticipate any commands.
 - c. DO NOT handle or pick up any weapon until told to do so.
 - d. NEVER handle a weapon while a person is down range.
 - e. No one goes forward of the firing line unless directed to do so by the SAI.
 - f. Keep the weapon pointed down range.
 - g. Keep the weapon on safe when not actually firing.
 - h. Whenever a shooter is not firing (in the ready position), the trigger finger shall be outside the trigger guard indexed along the receiver, with the weapon on safe.
 - i. When clearing jams or malfunctions in the PRSC, shooters are reminded to keep weapon pointed down range on target and the strong hand on the weapon.
 - j. While moving from the 25-yard line to the 12-yard line in the PRSC, the weapon will be in the standard method of carry. The safety shall be in the safe position. The weapon will be carried in the offhand position.
 - k. There will be no smoking on or in the vicinity of the firing line or loading areas. Smoking will be in designated areas only.
 - l. Keep noise to a minimum. Noise is a distraction and may interfere with shooter's ability to hear range commands.
 - m. DO NOT put brass in covers during cleanup due to lead contamination.

n. Horseplay of any kind is unacceptable and WILL NOT be tolerated.

3. Weapons Description and Nomenclature Remington Model 870 Shotgun.

a. General Description. The Remington M870 is a manually operated; pump action, shoulder-fired weapon with a parkerized metal finish. It is equipped with a synthetic stock with pistol grip and synthetic fore-end. It has a 14-inch barrel with a tritium front bead sight, and is fitted with a rifled choke tube. The choke tube allows for increased accuracy when firing slugs and solid less lethal projectiles. The M870 is also equipped with an ACOG (Advanced Combat Optical Gun sight) Reflex sight. The ACOG sight is a tritium powered reflex dot sight (no batteries) designed for use with both eyes open, allowing for rapid and accurate target acquisition in all light conditions.

The M870 is chambered for standard 2- 3/4 " and 3 " 12 GA shells, and is equipped with a four round magazine tube. It is also equipped with front and rear sling swivels for attachment of the standard web sling. Weight without sling: approx. 8 lbs. The shotguns length: 35 inches. Maximum range: 100 yards.

b. Components and Subcomponents. The M870 is broken down into six major components and subcomponents:

Components	Subcomponents
Receiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rear sight. • Magazine tube. • Magazine spring. • Follower. • Magazine cap. • Ejection port. • Loading port. • Shell latches. • AGOG Reflex sight.

Components	Subcomponents
Trigger group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trigger. • Trigger guard. • Hammer. • Safety. • Action bar lock. • Carrier.
Barrel assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrel. • Chamber. • Front tritium bead sight.
Fore-end	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grip. • Action bars.
Breech bolt and Slide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolt. • Slide. • Locking block.
Stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pistol grips. • Rubber recoil pad.

c. Component Description

(1) Receiver. Serves as a support for all major components.

Parts	Functions
Magazine tube	Attached to the lower front of the receiver is the magazine tube . The magazine tube holds 4 rounds and feeds the rounds onto the carrier.
Magazine cap	Holds the shotgun together.
Shell latch	A right and a left shell latch are staked on the lower front inside the receiver, just aft of the magazine tube. The shell latches allow one round at a time to be fed onto the carrier .

Parts	Functions
Loading port	Found on the under side of the shotgun. Permits loading directly into the magazine tube while keeping the weapon on target. (Tactical load)
Ejection port	Found on the right side of the shotgun. Used to eject spent cartridge cases and permits combat loading to an empty weapon.

- (2) Fore-end Assembly. The fore-end is a synthetic handhold, which is placed around a metal fore-end tube assembly. This is the “pump action” part of the shotgun and is used to cycle the weapon. The fore-end tube assembly has two action bars that engage the breech bolt and slide and allow the bolt mechanism to be moved back and forth. The fore-end, action bars, breech bolt and slide are referred to as the ACTION.
- (3) Trigger Group. This unit contains a number of important sub-assemblies. It contains all the parts associated with the trigger, the safety, carrier assembly, and the action bar lock.

Parts	Functions
Carrier	The carrier assembly acts like an elevator to lift the shells from the magazine into the path of the bolt.
Safety	The safety is of a crossbolt design. This is a non-positive safety. This safety only blocks the operation of the trigger and does not effect the operation of the hammer. When the safety is in the “SAFE” position, it protrudes out to the right as you look down on top of the weapon. When the safety is in the “FIRE” position, it will protrude out to the left and be flush on the right. It will also be identified by a visible “red” band on the left side of the trigger guard. The safety can be put on in both the “cocked” and “uncocked” condition.
Action bar lock	The action bar lock locks the action (bolt and fore-end) in the forward (in battery) position whenever the fore-end is forward and the weapon is “cocked”. The action can be “unlocked” manually when the action bar lock is depressed by the shooter, allowing the chambering of rounds, or automatically when the weapon is fired.

4. Loading. All loading and unloading of small arms should be accomplished on ranges or at designated clearing stations. Only unusual circumstances will require loading and unloading operations to be conducted at places other than the clearing station. If loading or unloading must be done outside a clearing area, the weapon must be kept pointed in a direction away for personnel or other vessels.

The techniques of loading and unloading service weapons must be learned by all personnel who will carry them as part of their regular duties. Those personnel shall be well drilled and understand the purpose of the training. Each unit shall have dummy cartridges on hand. Training with dummy cartridges shall be performed at least **quarterly** and, if required, more frequently to keep the unit personnel at the highest level of proficiency.

WARNING: Ensure the weapon is pointed in a safe direction at all times and that your finger stays outside the trigger guard, indexed along the receiver.

- a. ALWAYS keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction.
- b. Ensure the safety is in the **safe** (protruding to the right as you look at the top of the weapon) position.
- c. If needed, depress the action bar lock and move the fore-end (action) to the rear.
- d. Utilizing the push/pull method, ensure the weapon is clear.
- e. Grasp the shotgun by the pistol grip with the **strong** hand and place the weapon **under the strong arm between the elbow and strong side**, with the loading port pointed down. Grasp the fore-end with the reaction hand and close the breech bolt on an empty chamber. The action must be forward to load the magazine tube.
- f. Load four rounds through the loading port into the magazine tube.
- g. Once you have loaded four rounds into the magazine tube, come to the ready position.
 - (1) Tactical or Combat Loading is a procedure that allows you to reload rapidly while continuing to cover the target. Depending on the situation, one or the other can be used.

NOTE: Additional ammunition shall be kept in the reaction side pouch.

- (a) Tactical Load. Tactical loading is accomplished when a round is in the chamber. Keeping the weapon and eyes on target, action forward, feed the rounds into the magazine tube through the loading port with the reaction hand, using the strong hand to hold the weapon into the shoulder, ready to fire.
- (b) Combat Loading. Combat loading is accomplished when the weapon has been fired empty during combat or a course of fire. Keeping the weapon and eyes on target, rapidly move the action all the way back. With the reaction hand reaching under the receiver of the shotgun, drop a round into the weapon through the ejection port. Move the action forward, chambering the round, and finish loading by feeding rounds into the magazine tube through the loading port.

5. Standard Method of Carry for the M870 Shotgun.

- a. Fore-end (action) forward.
- b. Safety is in the SAFE (protruding to the right as you look down at the top of the weapon) position.
- c. Four rounds in the magazine tube.
- d. Empty chamber.

6. Unloading from an Empty Chamber Condition.

WARNING: Ensure the weapon is pointed in a safe direction at all times and that your finger stays outside the trigger guard, indexed along the receiver.

WARNING: Do Not cycle rounds through the chamber. Each time a round is chambered, there is a potential for accidental discharge.

- a. Ensure the **safety is in the safe** (protruding to the right as you look down at the top of the weapon) position.
- b. Place the weapon on your **left hip** with the ejection port facing up.
- c. Place your left hand on the fore-end with you little finger resting below the fore-end, between the fore-end and the receiver.

- d. With your right hand, depress the action bar lock, allowing the fore-end (action) to be released.
- e. Slowly move the fore-end (action) downward toward the receiver.
- f. When your little finger meets the receiver, **stop**.
- g. Push the carrier inward to the up position.
- h. Put the thumb of your right hand over the back of the round in the magazine tube and pull the fore-end completely to the rear. This will release the first round.

NOTE: If the round falls, DO NOT catch the round. Let it fall. Your priority is to clear the weapon.

- i. When the first round has been extracted from the magazine tube, depress the shell latch located on the right side (ejection port side) of the receiver just inside and to the forward end of the loading port. This will release the second round from the magazine.
- j. Depress the shell latch for each succeeding round until the weapon is empty.
- k. Utilizing the push/pull method, ensure the weapon is clear.

7. Unloading from a Loaded Chamber Condition.

WARNING: Do Not cycle rounds through the chamber. Each time a round is chambered, there is a potential for accidental discharge.

- a. Ensure the **safety is in the safe** (protruding to the right as you look down at the top of the weapon) position.
- b. Place the weapon on your **left hip** with the ejection port facing up.
- c. Place your left hand on the fore-end with you little finger resting below the fore-end, between the fore-end and the receiver.
- d. With your right hand, depress the action bar lock, allowing the fore-end (action) to be released.
- e. Slowly move the fore-end (action) downward toward the receiver.

- f. When your little finger meets the receiver, **stop**.
- g. The chambered round should begin to protrude from the ejection port. With your right hand, pull the round from the ejection port.

NOTE: If the round falls, DO NOT catch the round. Let it fall. Your priority is to clear the weapon.

NOTE: If a round is chambered in the line of duty and is no longer needed, the weapon should be but back to the standard method of carry. After removing the chambered round, move the fore-end (action) forward and reload the extracted round back into the magazine tube. The weapon has now been returned to the standard method of carry.

- h. Push the carrier inward to the up position.
 - i. Put the thumb of your right hand over the back of the round in the magazine tube and pull the fore-end completely to the rear. This will release the first round.
 - j. When the first round has been extracted from the magazine tube, depress the shell latch located on the right side (ejection port side) of the receiver just inside and to the forward end of the loading port. This will release the second round from the magazine.
 - k. Depress the shell latch for each succeeding round until the weapon is empty.
 - l. Utilizing the push/pull method, ensure the weapon is clear.
8. Firing the M870 Shotgun. In those situations where chambering a round is called for, the following procedure will be used:

NOTE: Do not chamber a round in the M870 unless the weapon is to be loaded in a deadly force situation (for firing) or as a “warning signal” to prevent the development of a situation that might otherwise require the use of deadly force under the provisions of the Maritime Law Enforcement Manual, COMDTINST M16247.1 (MLEM).

- a. Keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction.

- b. Shoulder the shotgun. Depress the action bar lock with the trigger finger, and with a sharp, fluid movement, bring the fore-end (action) completely to the rear and then completely forward. This must be accomplished in one swift and complete motion all the way to the rear, then all the way forward to ensure complete chambering of the round and proper operation of the weapon.

WARNING: Shooters shall keep their finger outside the trigger guard, indexed along the receiver, until aimed in on target and the decision to shoot has been made.

- c. Once the decision to shoot has been made, sight in and place the safety to the fire position.
- d. Place your finger inside the trigger guard.
- e. Squeeze the trigger.

9. Alibis and Malfunctions.

- a. Alibis. The only possible alibis in this course are malfunctions of the weapon, ammunition, or target (target falling). Coaches shall closely observe shooters to ensure there was an attempt to clear any malfunction during the string of fire. If the shooter **fails to make this attempt**, the coach will have shooter clear the malfunction during the alibi period (if mechanically possible). Any ejected rounds or remaining rounds from that string of fire will be taken by the coaches.

Shooters who **make a proper attempt** to clear the malfunction but do not clear the malfunction in time, or shooters who clear malfunctions but fail to fire all rounds in the time limit will be permitted to fire all alibi rounds before conducting any further stages of fire. Alibi firing will be conducted under the same conditions and time limits as non-alibi firing, with time per round allotted on a prorated basis.

NOTE: Rounds not fired due to shooter performance (e.g. too slow, or failure to attempt to clear a malfunction etc.) shall not be fired but taken away.

NOTE: The shooter must be able to describe to the SAI the malfunctions and the immediate action to be taken for each stoppage. Conduct this training using only dummy rounds.

- b. Stoppages. A stoppage is a failure of an automatic/semiautomatic weapon to extract or eject a spent case, or load or fire a new round. There are three basic types of stoppages:
- (1) A failure or malfunction of weapon.
 - (2) A failure or malfunction of ammunition.
 - (3) A failure or malfunction of the operator (operator error).
- c. Weapon Failures or Malfunctions. Weapons failures or malfunctions are mechanical problems beyond the shooter's control.
- d. Ammunition. Problems with small arms ammunition can be categorized into three categories: **hangfires, misfires, and squib rounds**.
- (1) Hangfire. A hangfire is a delay in the ignition of a propelling charge. The amount of delay is unpredictable, but in most cases will be a fraction of a second. In some cases, you may not notice the delay. The weapon will function normally.
 - (2) Misfire. A misfire is a complete failure of a propelling charge or primer to function. If a failure to fire (misfire) has occurred, immediate action must be taken.

WARNING: During hangfires and misfires, ALWAYS keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction.

- (3) Squib Round. A squib round is a round of ammunition with little or no powder charge. This type of round is distinguished by an audible pop or reduced recoil. A shooter **WILL NOT** take immediate action. In case of a squib round, the weapon **SHALL NOT be fired** and range personnel shall be notified. The bore of the weapon must be cleared before shooting continues.
- e. Operator Error. Improperly loaded weapons (rounds loaded backwards in a magazine tube), safety on, improper cycling and handling can be linked to operator error.
- (1) Improper training.
 - (2) Lack of training.
 - (3) Procedural shortcuts.

(4) Attention to detail.

(5) Adrenaline.

10. Emergency Procedures.

NOTE: Most malfunctions with a pump action shotgun are due to operator error.

- a. Immediate Action. Immediate action is the prompt action taken by the user to correct a stoppage. Immediate action should become instinctive to the user without attempting to discover the cause. Immediate action will correct most types of stoppages. Immediate actions with the M870 are as follows:

IF ...	THEN ...
Failure to eject (stove pipe)	Sweep cartridge out of the weapon with the reaction hand from underneath, cycle the fore-end (action), and attempt to resume firing.
Double feed	Move fore-end (action) completely to the rear and proceed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. If one round is on top of the others, roll the weapon to the side and dump out loose round. b. If one round is in front of another (coming from the magazine tube), push the forward round back into the magazine tube and attempt to chamber the round and fire.
Hangfire	Keep weapon pointed in a safe direction. (Stay on target, a hangfire will fire.)
Misfire	Keep the weapon pointed in a safe direction. Cycle the fore-end (action) and chamber another round. Use a firm and complete pump action. Attempt to fire.

NOTE: During the PRSC, shooters must make attempts to clear all malfunctions. If the procedures do not work by the cease fire signal, shooters must call for additional assistance by raising their reaction hand.

11. Rules of Marksmanship. There are six basic rules of marksmanship for firing any weapon: stance/position, grip, sight alignment, sight picture, breath control and trigger control.

NOTE: Pictures of marksmanship and tactical positions can be found on the SAI web sight at <http://www.uscg.mil/tcyorktown/TEW/SAI/index.htm>

- a. Stance. When firing the M870, the shooter should take a balanced stance. The shooter's feet should be approximately shoulder width apart and positioned so that the body is approximately 60° to the target. The reaction foot is forward and pointed towards the target with the reaction knee slightly bent to act as spring during recoil. The strong side elbow is parallel to the deck, forming a pocket for the stock to rest in. The stock of the weapon is placed firmly in the "pocket" of the shoulder (between the collarbone and the shoulder joint). The reaction hand shall firmly grip the fore-end, with the reaction side elbow pointing straight down, supporting the weapon from directly underneath. The strong hand shall firmly grasp the pistol grip of the stock, constantly pulling the shotgun into the shoulder. The shooter's cheek shall rest on the stock.

NOTE: Tactical "positions," not tactics, shall be taught by SAIs. Boarding tactics are taught by MLE instructors. Tactical positions give the shooters a pool of options to draw from in a Use of Force situation.

NOTE: Use of barricades is REQUIRED when available. A high score is less important than the deployment of tactical skills. Shooters should be made aware of the fact that, in the field, barricades can represent cover, concealment, and protection from return fire.

- b. Positions. There are three positions taught for the M870. The tactical positions depicted in the course were devised to help the average trainee achieve the best results. Since no two people are of the exact same shape or physical condition, the SAI has the authority to slightly modify positions as needed. The overriding considerations are target hits, adequate use of available cover, and safety. Shooters shall not be penalized for slight variations of stances or positions.

NOTE: When equipped with a tactical sling, the sling shall be worn with the loop placed over the weapon side shoulder and under the reaction side arm. If installed with the standard sling, the sling shall remain on the weapon, but not used.

- (1) Ready Position. The shotgun will be in the standard method of carry, held horizontally at waist level, pointing at the target. The shooter's feet are placed in a position so that the body is approximately 60° to the target with the reaction foot forward. The strong hand shall grasp the pistol grip with the finger outside the trigger guard, indexed along the receiver, and the reaction hand shall firmly grip the fore-end.
 - (2) Standing Offhand. The shooter's feet should be shoulder width apart and placed to position the body approximately 60° to the target with the reaction foot forward. The reaction knee is slightly bent, shifting the body's center of gravity forward. The strong side elbow is out parallel to the deck, forming a pocket for the stock. The stock of the weapon is placed firmly in the "pocket" of the shoulder (between the collarbone and the shoulder joint). The reaction hand shall firmly grip the fore-end, with the reaction side elbow pointing straight down, supporting the weapon from directly underneath. The strong hand shall firmly grasp the pistol grip of the stock, constantly pulling the shotgun into the shoulder. The shooter's cheek shall rest on the stock.
 - (3) Kneeling. The shooter's reaction foot is approximately 1/2 step forward. The strong leg is bent with the knee touching the deck. The weapon side elbow is parallel to the deck, forming a pocket for the stock to rest in. The stock of the weapon is placed firmly in the "pocket" of the shoulder (between the collarbone and the shoulder joint). The reaction hand shall firmly grip the fore-end, with the reaction side elbow pointing straight down in front of the reaction knee, supporting the weapon from directly underneath. The strong hand shall firmly grasp the pistol grip of the stock, constantly pulling the shotgun into the shoulder. The shooter's cheek shall rest on the stock.
- c. Grip. When firing the M870, a firm grip shall be maintained on the weapon at all times. The strong hand will grasp the pistol grip. A constant rearward pressure will be applied with the strong hand to keep the weapon in the shoulder. The finger is outside the trigger guard, indexed along the receiver. The reaction hand shall have a firm grip on the fore-end.

- d. Sight Alignment Fixed Sights M870. Sight alignment is the relationship of the front sight to the rear sight. To properly align the sights, the shooter must first use the proper eye. When shooting with the right hand, shooters will use the right eye, and if shooting left handed, shooters will use the left eye. The M870 is equipped with a blade sight fixed to the muzzle end of the barrel. When aligning the sights, the shooter will first find the front sight and bring it into alignment with the rear sight. The shooter's eye focus must be maintained on the front sight at all times. The rear sight will appear slightly blurry, but can still be seen. This will allow the shooter to maintain proper sight alignment. No portion of the barrel should be visible above the sighting surface. (See figure 1)

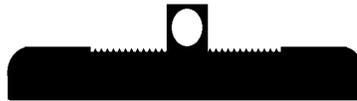


Figure 1

- e. Sight Picture Fixed Sights. Once you have acquired your sight alignment, you must develop the sight picture. Sight picture is placing the proper sight alignment in the proper place on the target. The human eye cannot focus on two things at once. Therefore, the shooter cannot focus on the sights and the target at the same time. The shooter's eye focus must remain on the front sight at all times. To obtain the proper sight picture, the shooter places the proper sight alignment on the target so that the front blade covers the center mass of the target. (See figure 2.)

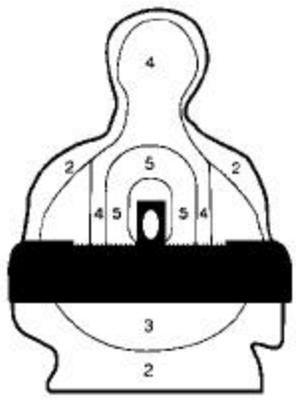


Figure 2

- f. Sight picture with ACOG sight. The ACOG reflex sight is designed for close combat and quick target acquisition while providing enhanced aiming. It has a tritium illuminated dot for night and low light use. Using the ACOG Reflex sight, place the amber aiming point on the desired area of impact (the center mass of the target). (See figure 3.)

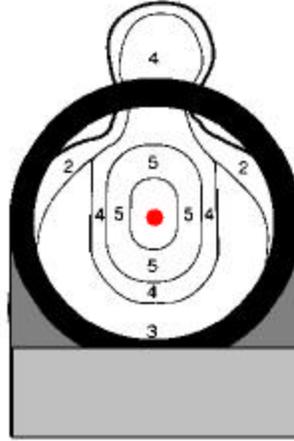


Figure 3

WARNING: When equipped with an ACOG sight, **NO** part of the front tritium bead sight should be seen in the ACOG sight. The front sight of the M870 IS NOT used with the ACOG sight.

NOTE: Arc of Movement. When acquiring the sight picture, the shooter will notice that the weapon appears to move. This effect is known as the “Arc of Movement.” It is a natural movement in the form of a horizontal figure “8.” All shooters, no matter how experienced, have this movement. Shooters should not try to control this movement by tensing up. Tensing up will cause the weapon to vibrate and increase the movement.

- g. Breath Control. Proper breath control allows the shooter to remain steady once a good sight picture is attained. Prior to firing, the shooter should take a deep breath and exhale half of it. By allowing some air to remain in the lungs, the shooter will not fight to exhale or inhale. This allows the weapon to remain steady until the weapon is fired. The acronym for proper breath control is “**B.R.A.S.S.**”

- (1) **B**reathe.
- (2) **R**elease halfway and hold.

- (3) Aim.
- (4) Squeeze.
- (5) Shoot.

With proper breathing technique, the movement on the target can be controlled. Just prior to the commence fire signal, the shooter should take a deep breath and exhale halfway. Shooter should not be breathing while firing. During tactical loading, combat loading and position changes, the shooter may breathe normally until back on target.

h. Trigger Control. There are three stages of trigger control: finger placement, trigger squeeze, and follow through.

- (1) Finger Placement. To begin proper trigger control, the shooter must first properly place the index finger on the trigger. The index finger is placed in the middle of the trigger at the most rearward curved portion, to apply pressure to the trigger. The trigger should cross the finger approximately halfway between the tip of the finger and the first joint, over the swirl of the fingerprint. (See figure 3.)

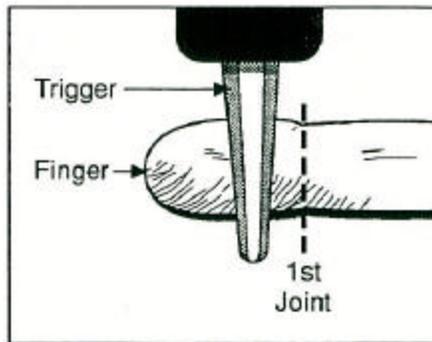


Figure 3

- (2) Trigger Squeeze. After attaining proper placement of the finger on the trigger, proper trigger pressure can be applied to the trigger. There are three parts of trigger pressure each time the weapon is fired. They are **slack**, **squeeze**, and **follow through**. All three parts are important to proper trigger control.
 - (a) Slack. The shooter must first take up the slack at the beginning of the trigger movement by applying slight pressure to the trigger. The trigger will move slightly to the rear until the internal parts of the trigger mechanism come into full contact with each other, and the “softness” in the tip of the finger is eliminated.

- (b) Squeeze. The trigger is then in the squeeze portion of its movement, which is when the internal parts of the weapon are being disengaged from each other to allow the hammer to fall. The pressure should be a smooth, constant, and even pressure, applied straight to the rear so that the sights are not misaligned at the instant the hammer falls. Once the hammer begins to fall, the follow through portion of trigger control begins.
- (c) Follow Through. Follow through is the continued steady pressure applied to the trigger until the trigger reaches its most rearward point of travel. If the shooter does not continue to apply the constant, even pressure during follow through, it is possible that the impact of the round could move on the target, thus spoiling an otherwise good shot.

12. Course of Fire.

Phase	Stage	String
1. 25-Yard Line	1. Ready to Offhand	5 rds in 25 sec
	2. Offhand to Kneeling	5 rds in 25 sec
2. 12-Yard Line	1. Offhand	5 rds in 25 sec
	2. Offhand to Kneeling	5 rds in 25 sec

Table 1

13. Warnings and Notes.

NOTE: Violation of any safety regulation WILL NOT be tolerated and is cause for removal from the firing line.

NOTE: Loss of muzzle control at anytime in this course will result in immediate removal from the firing line.

WARNING: If personnel are required to go down range during the course of fire, all weapons SHALL be cleared and grounded, benched, or holstered. Shooters will step well behind the firing line away from the weapons. In no case will ANYONE touch a weapon with personnel down range.

WARNING: Throughout all stages of fire, shooters shall keep their finger outside the trigger guard, indexed along the receiver, until aimed in on target and the “commence fire” signal has been given.

NOTE: When combat loading or tactical loading, keep the target covered at all times. The safety remains on “Fire”, and the weapon is held into the shoulder. While looking at the target, load a round into the magazine tube through the loading port for tactical loading or into the ejection port for combat loading.

WARNING: At the end of Phase 1 Stage 1 and Phase 2 Stage 1 the weapon is loaded with a round in the chamber. Muzzle control must be maintained on target at all times.

WARNING: When a barricade is used, there must be no physical contact between the shooter and the barricade or the weapon and the barricade.

14. Descriptions and Commands. The phase and stage descriptions are for instructor use during the pre fire instruction. Commands are for use on the firing line.

- a. Phase 1 Description. Phase 1 will be fired from the 25-yard line, for a total of 10 rounds of slug ammunition fired in 2 stages.

Stage 1 will be 5 rounds from the ready to the offhand position in 25 seconds. On the commence fire signal, shooters will assume the offhand position, chamber the 1st round, place the safety in the fire position, fire 4 rounds, combat load 1 round into the chamber, and tactically load 1 round into the magazine tube. Shooters will then fire 1 round, chamber the last round, and stay sighted in on target.

Stage 2 will be 5 rounds from the offhand to kneeling position with a tactical load, in 25 seconds. On the commence fire signal, shooters will assume the kneeling position, tactically load 4 rounds into the magazine tube, place the safety in the fire position, and fire 5 rounds.

(1) Phase 1 Stage 1 Commands:

- (a) “In this stage of fire, you will fire 5 rounds and chamber the 6th round of slug ammunition, from the ready to offhand position, in 25 seconds. You will fire 4 rounds, combat load 1 round, tactically load 1 round, fire 1 round, and chamber the last round.”
- (b) “Ensure your weapon is on safe. Load 4 rounds into the magazine tube.”
- (c) “Assume the ready position.”
- (d) “5 rounds, 25 seconds, from the ready to offhand position, with a combat and tactical load. Is the line ready?”
- (e) “The line is/is not ready.”
- (f) Commence fire signal.
- (g) Cease fire signal. “Are there any alibis?”
- (h) “There are/are no alibis.”
- (i) “Place your weapon on safe.”

(2) Phase 1 Stage 2 Commands:

- (a) “In this stage of fire, you will fire 5 rounds of slug ammunition, from the offhand to kneeling position, with a tactical load, in 25 seconds. On the commence fire signal, you will assume the kneeling position, tactically load 4 rounds, and fire 5 rounds.”
- (b) “5 rounds, 25 seconds, from the offhand to kneeling position, with a tactical load. Is the line ready?”
- (c) “The line is/is not ready.”
- (d) Commence fire signal.
- (e) Cease fire signal. “Are there any alibis?”
- (f) “There are/are no alibis.”
- (g) “Place your weapon on safe”

- (h) "Is the line clear?"
- (i) "The line is/is not clear."
- (j) "Shooters, while keeping your weapon pointed down range, covering your target, stand up and come to the ready position."

NOTE: If using one target, after the line is clear, ground weapons, score targets and resurface.

- (k) "Ensure your weapon is on safe. Load 4 rounds into the magazine tube."
- (l) "While covering your target in the offhand position and keeping your line dressed, advance to the 12-yard line, March."

b. Phase 2 Description. Phase 2 will be fired from the 12-yard line, for a total of 10 rounds of 00 buck ammunition fired in 2 stages.

Stage 1 will be 5 rounds from the offhand position in 25 seconds. On the commence fire signal, shooters will chamber the 1st round, place the safety in the fire position, fire 4 rounds, combat load 1 round into the chamber, and tactically load 1 round into the magazine tube. Shooters will then fire 1 round, chamber the last round, and stay sighted in on target.

Stage 2 will be 5 rounds from the offhand to kneeling position with a tactical load, in 25 seconds. On the commence fire signal, shooters will assume the kneeling position, tactically load 4 rounds into the magazine tube, place the safety in the fire position, and fire 5 rounds.

(1) Phase 2 Stage 1 Commands:

- (a) "In this stage of fire, you will fire 5 rounds and chamber the 6th round of 00 buck ammunition, from the offhand position, in 25 seconds. You will fire 4 rounds, combat load 1 round, tactically load 1 round, fire 1 round, and chamber the last round."
- (b) "Ensure your weapon is on safe. Load 4 rounds into the magazine tub."
- (c) "Assume the ready position."
- (d) "5 rounds, 25 seconds, from the offhand position, with a combat and tactical load. Is the line ready?"

- (e) “The line is/is not ready.”
- (f) Commence fire signal.
- (g) Cease fire signal. “Are there any alibis?”
- (h) “There are/are no alibis.”
- (i) “Place your weapon on safe.”

(2) Phase 2 Stage 2 Commands:

- (a) “In this stage of fire, you will fire 5 rounds of 00 buck ammunition, from the offhand to kneeling position, with a tactical load, in 25 seconds. On the commence fire signal, you will assume the kneeling position, tactically load 4 rounds, and fire 5 rounds.”
- (b) “5 rounds, 25 seconds, from the offhand to kneeling position, with a tactical load. Is the line ready?”
- (c) “The line is/is not ready.”
- (d) Commence fire signal.
- (e) Cease fire signal. “Are there any alibis?”
- (f) “There are/are no alibis.”
- (g) “Place you weapons on safe, utilizing the push/pull method, ensure your weapon is clear.”
- (h) “Is the line clear?”
- (i) “The line is/is not clear.”
- (j) “Bench/ground your weapon, ejection port up.”

15. Qualification Criteria.

- a. Qualification. For record purposes, scoring will be entered on the appropriate form, Individual's Record of Small Arms Training (CG-3029A), service record, per COMDTINST 1080.10 (series), Military Personnel Data Records (PDR) System. Personnel who fail to obtain a qualifying score during their initial record firing should receive appropriate training and be allowed to fire the record fire course one additional time, provided time and assets are available.
- b. Scoring for the course will be based on a maximum of 180 points from 10 rounds of 12 GA #00 BUCK ammunition and 10 rounds of 12 GA slug ammunition.
 - (1) 00 buck- 1 hit anywhere within the target scoring area counts as 1 point.
 - (2) Slug ammunition- 1 hit in the 4 and 5 rings counts as 9 points. Slugs outside the 4 ring will count as 0 points.
- c. The minimum qualifying score is 144. A person will either be "QUALIFIED" (Q) or "UNQUALIFIED" (U).