

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

MARTIAL ARTS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

THE BASIC SCHOOL

24191 GILBERT ROAD

QUANTICO, VIRGINIA 22134

STUDENT OUTLINE

HISTORY AND STRUCTURE OF MCMAP

MAIB1040LP

MARTIAL ARTS INSTRUCTOR COURSE

M02MMET

APPROVED BY: Maj. Carter, C.T. DATE: 1 January 2020

LEARNING OBJECTIVES. This is a lesson purpose class with no associated learning objectives.

1. HISTORY OF MARTIAL ARTS

a. Origin. When one hears the words martial arts, they automatically think of dojos, kung fu movies, judo tournaments, and flying kicks. In reality, the term martial means military or war-like. The original term martial arts, or more correctly martial ways, was for all aspects of warfare: weapons usage, navigation, communication, operational planning, etc. The true origins of martial arts lie on the battlefield where armed opponents are engaged in a fight for their lives and the lives of their comrades.

b. Evolution. All modern civilian martial arts have evolved from these battlefield origins. Many schools were developed to teach combat skills based on the experiences of past warriors; if the warrior survived, it must work. These systems often covered many weapons and their effective uses. Martial arts training changed into sport systems during periods of peace. During the 19th and 20th centuries, the term martial arts began to relate to unarmed civilian self-defense or sports systems.

c. Principles. Combat systems must be principle based rather than technique based; function must override form. The techniques are the vehicle used to teach and reinforce the principles. Practitioners focus only on techniques and never fully grasp the principles of their study. A true combative martial art combines sound principles, fundamental techniques, mission accomplishment, simplicity, and develops a focused combat mindset.

2. HISTORY OF MCMAP. The United States Marine Corps was born during the battles that created this country and Marines have upheld the reputation as tough and determined fighters since 1775. Drawing upon the experiences of past Marines, we have developed a martial culture unrivaled in the world today. This legacy includes not only our fighting prowess but also the character and soul of what makes us unique. The battles that exist in impeccable heraldry in the Corps' legacy - Belleau Wood, Edson's Ridge, Chosin Reservoir, and Hue City - are hallmarked by the courage and tenacity of leathernecks who fought with all available weaponry to accomplish a mission. MCMAP is a program by Marines, for Marines.

a. **Continental Marines**. The fighting system of the Marine Corps reflects an evolution dating back to the creation of the Marine Corps. The Marine boarding parties had to rely on bayonet and sword techniques when raiding other vessels, while sharpshooters provided accurate fire from the riggings of supporting ships. There were no formal schools for this training; instead, Marines learned skills on the job passed on from Marine to Marine.

b. **WWI**. During World War I, some of these same techniques were modified and supplemented with unarmed combat techniques to make them more useful and suited for trench warfare. Bayonet techniques continued to play an increasingly larger role in close combat training during WWI.

c. **WWII**. After World War I, Marine Corps units began to standardize close combat techniques based on bayonet, knife, boxing, wrestling, and fencing. During this period martial arts techniques were developed by various subject matter experts including Colonel "Cold-Steel" Walker, Colonel Rex Applegate, Major Anthony J. Biddle, Captains W. M. Greene, Samuel B. Griffith, William E. Fairbairn, and Eric A. Sykes. These pioneers contributed the techniques and training methods that eventually evolved into the combative used for WWII. The major components of these systems were combat conditioning, bayonet fighting and close in fighting techniques. Many of the techniques in MCMAP, specifically tan belt, were based on the fundamentals from World War II combative training.

d. **L.I.N.E.** There were few changes to the training publications after WWII, with most units using their own subject matter experts to supplement unit training, until the introduction of the Linear Infighting Neural-Override Engagement (L.I.N.E.) system by Master Sergeant Ron Donvito in the early 1980s. This program was the first official standardized fighting system for the Marine Corps, establishing a Marine Corps Order and clear testing standards. Combined with combat hitting skills (modified boxing), L.I.N.E became a recruit training requirement by the early 1990s.

e. **Close Combat**. The L.I.N.E. program came under review due to a large number of injuries and 3 deaths as a result of combat hitting skills. In 1998 a subject matter expert board was formed and the Marine Corps Close Combat Program was established to enhance the training by incorporating non-lethal techniques needed in various situations, such as Non-Combat Evacuation Operations (NEO) and Riot Control.

f. **MCMAP**. In 1999, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James L. Jones, detailed his vision of a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, which stemmed from his experiences as a young Captain in Vietnam. He witnessed the North Vietnamese soldiers avoiding a fight with the Republic of Korean Marines because of the perception that all Korean Marines were black belts in Tae Kwon Do. With that vision the Commandant issued guidance for the program, resulting in a period of testing and evaluation. From this testing and evaluation, the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program was born. MCMAP evolved into its present day form by combining the best combat-tested martial arts skills with proven core values and leadership training. The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program is like Marines, unique. MCMAP was finally implemented as part of the Commandant of the Marine Corps' initiative in the summer of 2000. General Jones assigned LtCol George Bristol and MGySgt Cardo Urso to establish the MCMAP curriculum to be taught at the Martial Arts Center of Excellence (MACE).

3. **OVERVIEW OF MCMAP**. The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program is an integrated, weapons-based system that incorporates the full spectrum of violence and contributes to the mental, character and physical development of all Marines. The focus of MCMAP is the personal development of each Marine in a team framework using a standardized, trainable, and sustainable close combat fighting system. All techniques are integrated with equipment, physical challenges, and tactics found on the modern battlefield.

a. **Purpose**. MCMAP is designed to enhance the Marine Corps' capabilities as an elite fighting force by providing basic combative skills for all Marines. MCMAP increases the warfighting capabilities of individual Marines and units across the spectrum of violence. It is a weapon-based system rooted in the credo that every Marine is a rifleman and will engage the aggressor from 500 meters to 500 millimeters. MCMAP boosts self-confidence and esprit de corps, and fosters the warrior ethos in all Marines.

b. **Motto**. The motto of MCMAP, "One mind, any weapon", states the essence of the program. This means every Marine is always armed even without a weapon. They are armed with a combat mindset, the ability to assess and to act, and the knowledge that all Marines can rely on one another.

c. **Close Combat**. The dilemma of close-range combat; hand

grenades, close-in assault fire, weapons fighting, and hand-to-hand engagement will always be a part of the Marine Corps mission. In this respect, the ethos of the United States Marine Corps is timeless. The closeness of interpersonal violence remains unmatched. Whether on the beaches of Iwo Jima, downtown Mogadishu, Haiti, or in Fallujah, Iraq, conflicts will occur and Marines will deploy.

d. Today's Corps. Today's Corps is more technologically advanced and intelligent than it has ever been. New integrated systems will bring the Marines of the new millennium to a heightened sense of battlefield awareness unseen in modern warfare. Within the present "less to do more" deployment schedule, a platoon will do today what a company was tasked to do in the past. In spite of these changes, the violence of warfare and conflict will continue.

e. Today's Marines. While it is clear today's young Marines are smarter and more physically fit, their need to deal with complex situations mixed with the full spectrum of violence is real. Today's strategic Corporal is a trigger squeeze away from being the catalyst of tomorrow's escalation of violence. It is with this threat in mind that the Commandant of the Marine Corps created the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.

4. STRUCTURE OF MCMAP

a. Disciplines. The Marine Corps Martial Arts Program is built on the foundation of the three disciplines: mental, character, and physical. Each discipline is presented systematically to Marines at each belt level. Those disciplines taught at lower belt levels are then reviewed and reinforced during follow-on training and at the next belt level. Many skills specific to one discipline reinforce the strengths of the other disciplines. This creates a synergistic effect, whereby the program as a whole is stronger than its individual parts. For example, warrior studies strengthen Marines' mental discipline with history, while developing core values and warrior ethos.

b. MACE. The MACE is responsible for maintaining all references and Programs of Instruction for MCMAP. The MACE has numerous other responsibilities to include running MAIT and MAI courses, sending out mobile training teams (MTTs), and monitoring martial arts mishap reports.

c. **Satellite Schools.** Satellite Schools are responsible for running MAI courses and assisting local units with all aspects of MCMAP.

d. **Martial Arts Instructor Trainers.** The MAIT can run MAI courses and supervises the instructors within their unit. Instructor Trainers are responsible for acting as the commanding officers representative for MCMAP and implementing a unit training program in accordance with the commander's guidance. Instructor Trainers must develop training that integrates and enhances the unit's mission.

e. **Martial Art Instructors.** This is where the individual user is transformed into someone who gives back to their Marines and the Corps. The Instructor is responsible for teaching users within their unit up to their own belt level. They teach the physical techniques, conduct combat conditioning, supervise free sparring, and conduct the character and mental training which positively influences the unit's cohesion, esprit de corps, and combat readiness.

f. **Users.** Belt users' responsibilities include participating in all technique classes, tie-ins, warrior studies, and sustaining techniques. They must also participate in combat conditioning, sustainment and integration, and free-sparring. Belt qualified users at all levels are responsible for maintaining the skills in which they have earned. It is also important for all users to understand when and why it may be necessary to use those techniques.

REFERENCES:

Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, MCO 1500.59

Marine Corps Martial Arts, MCRP 3-02B