

Short Range Marksmanship

Short Range Marksmanship engagements are those with little or no warning. This type of engagement is probable in close terrain and is typically 50 meters or closer. Marksmanship skills include quick presentation and application of the fundamentals (such as quick acquisition of sight picture). At close ranges, perfect sight picture is not as critical to the accurate engagement of targets. The shooter can utilize an acceptable sight picture to accurately engage targets however, the shooter must always utilize the sights/optic of his/her weapon to engage. The shooter in this type of environment must be both effective and efficient.

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Effectiveness vs. Efficiency

Effectiveness: The shooter's ability to put rounds on target exactly where he/she wants them. The shooter must maintain sight alignment and trigger control. At extremely close distances (closer than 25M) the shooter must also utilize a hold over to effectively hit the target in the optimal "spot".

Efficiency: The shooter's ability to put rounds on target quickly. This is absolutely critical during engagements at extremely close distances. The shooter must utilize proper recoil management, and move the weapon quickly to the next target.

*Ultimately success in the short range marksmanship environment comes down to the combination of both of these aspects. The shooter must utilize the method of engagement thought processes when in an environment like this.

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Method of Engagement

The method of engagement thought process is essentially how quickly the shooter will engage each target that is encountered. This will dictate whether the shooter uses perfect sight alignment or has the ability to use an acceptable sight alignment. The method of engagement process comes down to 3 aspects: Distance to the target, size of the target, shooters capability

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Distance to the Target:

The shooter must realize how far or close he/she is to the target. This comes directly into play with how fast the shooter will engage the target and whether or not the shooter can accept errors in grip, position, sight alignment, and trigger control. The closer to the target the shooter is the less of a perfect sight picture the shooter has to have ultimately leading to the faster the shooter can engage the target while still maintaining the needed accuracy to hit the target in the appropriate area. **The further away the target is from the shooter the more fine and ultimately perfect fundamentals the shooter must have.** The shooter has to perfectly align the sights and perfectly manipulate the trigger in order to hit the target. Any errors in sight alignment and trigger control the shooter has a high probability of missing the target at greater distances. This is something the shooter has to be aware of constantly **there will be times when a target is extremely close to the shooter. To stay alive and eliminate the target quickly the shooter must shoot quickly accepting errors in sight alignment, trigger control, grip, and position** however, the next target maybe be further way. The shooter then must have the mental discipline to slow down and have perfect fundamentals to accurately hit the target.

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Size of the Target:

The shooter must realize what the size of the target he/she is engaging actually is. The target maybe to obscured by an obstacle ultimately decreasing the surface area in which the shooter has to work with to actually hit the target. **As the surface area of a target decreases the shooter again must have perfect fundamentals of grip, position, and more importantly sight alignment and trigger control.** **The larger the surface area of the target the more errors in the fundamentals the shooter can accept.** Just like the section distance to the target the shooter must have the mental discipline to know when it's ok to accept the errors and when perfect fundamentals must be applied.

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Shooter capability:

The biggest issue that shooters will face will be shooting within their capability. Some shooters depending on their skill level will be able to accept more errors in their fundamentals at greater distance and with smaller surface area targets. Accepting these errors simply allow the shooter to engage targets faster. **Many shooters have trouble having the mental discipline to slow down and have perfect fundamentals when engaging a further distanced target, a target with a smaller surface area, or even both.**