

## Dry Fire 5

**Safety-** before demonstrating the loading and unloading sequence highlight to the students the importance of being in the moment and doing things in the right order. It may be good time to reference the previous videos that we seen where guys thought the weapon was unload when it was actually loaded.

This will also be the time when we introduce the dummy rounds. Use this time to talk to students about how we are using the dummy rounds and what you expect in the treatment of the rounds, etc...

However you plan on having the students load their weapon on the range, meaning on their knees as they go to the prone, or standing up before they get in the prone, whatever it is make sure that they practice doing it that way so that it looks and feels the same when you get out to the range.

### Clearing the weapon

1. Make sure the magazine is removed from the weapon
2. Lock the bolt to the rear
3. Visually inspect the chamber, the mag well and the bolt face
4. If appropriate, pass the weapon to one of their teammates to check as well

### Loading the weapon

1. Make sure the weapon is clear
2. If appropriate, place the butt stock under the strong arm.
3. Leave the strong hand on the pistol grip of the rifle
4. Retrieve a magazine with the support hand and insert it into the magazine well of the rifle
5. Pull down on the magazine to make sure it seated
  - a. This would be a good time to discuss the importance of making sure your magazine is seated in the weapon, as the number one malfunction for the M4 is failure to load / failure to seat the magazine.
6. With the support hand press the bolt release as the rifle is pointed in a safe direction and you are visually observing the chamber.

### Checking to make sure the weapon is loaded / status check

Start by explaining that a status check is not a requirement and that doing it may create a malfunction. But because most people want to know for sure that there is a round in the chamber before they go out into combat operations we are going to go over a technique that will allow us to check that there's a round in the chamber and then to ensure that our rifle is still ready to go.

1. Shift your visual focus to the chamber area
2. Pull the charging handle back slightly and observe the chamber

3. Let the charging handle go forward fully
4. Press the forward assist ensuring that the bolt is fully seated
5. Close the dust cover

**Alternate status check** (low light) – before inserting magazine feel the top round and determine which side it is on. Once loaded remove magazine and the top round should now be on the opposite side.

After you have demonstrated the loading and unloading sequence, and have talked the students through it several times, have the students do several more repetitions. Once again, make sure you highlight to the students that they are to remain aware and in the moment whenever they have to load or unload their weapon and that doing things in the correct sequence is critical.