Civilian Marksmanship Program

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Rifle Safety Manual

READ THIS MANUAL FIRST
Before Operating, Loading or Firing Your CMP Rifle

IMPORTANT WARNING FOR CMP RIFLE PURCHASERS

READ THIS WARNING BEFORE LOADING AND FIRING YOUR CMP RIFLE!

Do not attempt to load and fire your new CMP rifle until you are thoroughly familiar with the safety rules and safe firing procedures described in this manual. Even if you have had previous firearms safety training or shooting sports experience, please take the time to review these safety rules and procedures.

The rifle you purchased from the CMP is a used, military surplus firearm. Many of these rifles are several decades old and have been used extensively. Absolutely no assurance is given that this rifle will function properly or be safe to use in the condition in which you receive it. **IT IS SOLD STRICTLY "AS IS," WITH NO WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED.**

Do not use this rifle until it has been disassembled and thoroughly cleaned, and carefully examined by a competent gunsmith familiar with its operating mechanism and its safety features. Any unserviceable parts must be replaced and any other deficiencies must be corrected before any attempt is made to load or fire the rifle. If any parts must be replaced, be sure that parts designed and manufactured for that specific rifle are used. When your gunsmith examines your rifle, the headspace should be checked to be sure it is within acceptable tolerances.

CMP Rifle Safety Manual
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1. INTRODUCTION

Safety is the First Responsibility of Every Gun Owner

Congratulations on becoming the new owner of a CMP rifle. The experiences you will have with your new rifle promise to be rewarding, meaningful and exciting. Being a rifle owner also carries with it a life or death responsibility for you to always follow the best safety practices while using your rifle. A rifle is a powerful tool that can be very dangerous if used carelessly, but a rifle used while following established safety practices can be exceptionally safe. A rifle handled unsafely could be used to cause injury or death. A rifle used safely becomes an important item of sports or recreation equipment or an artifact of historical significance that gives enjoyment and fulfillment to the many experiences you will have with it.

This Manual is written specifically for the following rifles sold by the CMP:

Semi-automatic rifles:

- M1 Carbine, .30 M1 Carbine
- H&R Model 65 (MC58)

Manually-operated bolt action rifles:

- Kimber Model 82, .22 l.r.
- M1917, .30-06
- M12 (H&R 5200), .22 l.r.
- Remington 513T, .22 l.r.
- Remington 40X, .22 l.r.
- Mossberg M144US, .22 l.r.
- Remington 541X, .22 l.r.
- Winchester Model 52, .22 l.r.
- Mossberg M44US, .22 l.r.
- Winchester Model 75. 22 l.r.
- Anschütz smallbore rifle, .22 l.r.

Some of these rifles also may be shipped with the rifle manufacturer's safety manuals if they were retained with the rifle. If a factory safety manual comes with your CMP rifle, be sure to study both that manual and this manual before using your rifle.

Occasionally other rifles will be declared surplus by the U. S. government and released to the CMP for sale so this manual may also be provided with other rifles similar to the ones listed above.

The CMP publishes separate Safety Manuals for the M1903 Springfield and M1 Garand rifles. If you have one of those rifles, be sure you have the safety manual for that rifle and study it carefully before using your rifle.

Gun accidents are rarely, if ever, the fault of the firearm. A gun is only a machine, with no will or volition of its own. It responds to your actions, wise or foolish. Guns are provided with mechanical safety features, but no mechanical safety should ever be regarded as a reason for not following all of the safety practices described in this manual. **The person who holds, handles and fires a gun is its only real safety.** Gun safety must be achieved through unceasing vigilance for even momentary carelessness can produce a permanent tragedy.

To safely handle and fire your rifle, you need to know, understand and apply a series of important safety rules and practices. This manual offers you the collected wisdom of shooting and firearms experts who have transformed their experiences into safety rules and procedures that can keep all gun owners and those around them safe. Those rules and procedures are covered in this guide. Even if you're an experienced shooter, by carefully studying this manual, you might learn something you didn't know before, or be reminded of something you once learned, but forgot.

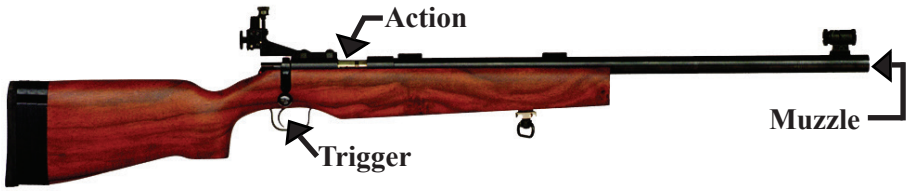
This ***CMP Rifle Safety Manual*** is written to be used with most rifles sold by the CMP (see inset for a list of rifles covered). This manual can also be used as a safety guide for many other similar types of rifles.

Read this manual now, before you start to use your rifle.

Firearms Safety and the CMP. The federal law that established the Civilian Marksmanship Program makes firearms safety one of its highest priorities. This law specifically states that a primary function of the CMP is *"to instruct citizens of the United States in marksmanship; (and) to promote practice and safety in the use of firearms."* To fulfill this responsibility, the CMP produces a variety of safety materials including this ***CMP Rifle Safety Manual***. Other CMP safety materials can be ordered through the CMP E-Store at https://estore.thecmp.org or through the ***CMP Catalog***. The CMP also conducts or sanctions numerous rifle safety and marksmanship clinics. CMP-Sanctioned Clinics sponsored by CMP-affiliated gun clubs offer excellent instruction on safety and target shooting techniques. Many of these clinics are taught by CMP-certified Master Instructors. If you have not attended a CMP-sanctioned clinic, check the "Upcoming Matches and Events" listings posted on the CMP web site at https://ct.thecmp.org. Then scroll to the list of "CMP Sanctioned Clinics" to find a clinic in your area.

2. SAFE GUN HANDLING RULES

The first step in safely handling any firearm is to know and apply the three fundamental rules of safe gun handling. These rules are simple and easy to follow. The keys to gun safety with your rifle are its muzzle, action and trigger. You can easily remember these safety keys and the fundamental rules that go with them by using the key word, M-A-T. M-A-T, of course, stands for Muzzle-Action-Trigger. These safety keys remind us of the things you must do when you pick up a gun to make sure it cannot be fired unintentionally or if it were somehow unintentionally fired, that such a shot would not harm another person.



Safe gun handling depends on properly controlling three key parts of the rifle, the muzzle, action and trigger.

WHEN YOU FIRST PICK UP A RIFLE

When you first grasp a rifle, place your hands on it so that your index finger remains outside of the trigger guard.

When you pick up a rifle or take a rifle from another person, always grasp the rifle with your fingers outside of the trigger guard! Do not place your index finger on the trigger when you pick up or take a rifle from someone. Later we will explain that the only appropriate time to place your index finger inside the trigger guard and on the trigger is when you are starting to aim at an actual target. While holding the rifle with your fingers outside of the trigger guard, you can apply the three safe gun handling rules that are paramount to assuring that you will never fire an unintentional shot.

SAFETY RULE 1 -- CONTROL THE MUZZLE

The first rule of gun safety is to CONTROL THE DIRECTION THE MUZZLE POINTS. As soon as you place your hands on a gun, and while keeping your index finger outside of the trigger guard, your first thought must be to control the muzzle so that it does not point at another person. Usually the safest direction to point a gun muzzle is up. When on the firing line on a shooting range, it is generally required that rifle muzzles be pointed up or downrange towards the targets. In no instance should a gun muzzle ever be allowed to point at another person. Nor should you ever allow someone else to point a gun muzzle towards you or any other person who is near you.

When handling any firearm, keep your finger outside of the trigger guard and continually control the muzzle to make sure it is pointing in a safe direction. The safest direction to point gun muzzles is usually up.

SAFETY RULE 2 -- OPEN THE ACTION--CLEAR THE RIFLE

The second rule of gun safety is to open the gun's action and clear it. As soon as you have the muzzle pointed in a safe direction, focus your attention on its action. You must "clear" the rifle by opening its action and making sure it is unloaded. To do this, you must know 1) how to open your rifle's action, 2) how to visually inspect the chamber to confirm it is unloaded and 3) how to check or remove the magazine to be sure it is unloaded.

The "action" of a firearm is its working mechanism. The action facilitates the loading and firing of the rifle. Every rifle action (except muzzle-loaders) has a bolt, operating rod or other device that opens and closes or locks the action. To open the action of your rifle, grasp its bolt or operating rod to unlock and pull it to the rear to open the action.

The arrow indicates the magazine release on an M1 Carbine. Press to release the magazine.

Keep the rifle action open and immediately go to the next step in clearing your rifle. To do this, you must visually inspect its chamber to be sure no cartridge is in it. Semi-automatic and bolt action rifles have a chamber at the breech end of the barrel into which the cartridge is inserted for firing. Visually inspecting your rifle, means looking at its chamber to confirm it is empty. Never conclude that your rifle is unloaded without physically seeing (or feeling) that the chamber is empty.

The third step in clearing any rifle that has either an internal or removable magazine (examples are the M1917, M1 Carbine and H&R M65.) is to also clear the magazine. If your rifle has an internal magazine, it must be emptied. It may be necessary to use the bolt to cycle live cartridges out of the magazine. If your rifle has a removable magazine, clear the rifle by removing the magazine from the rifle. There should be a "magazine release on the bottom of the action that releases the magazine so that it drops out or may be pulled out.

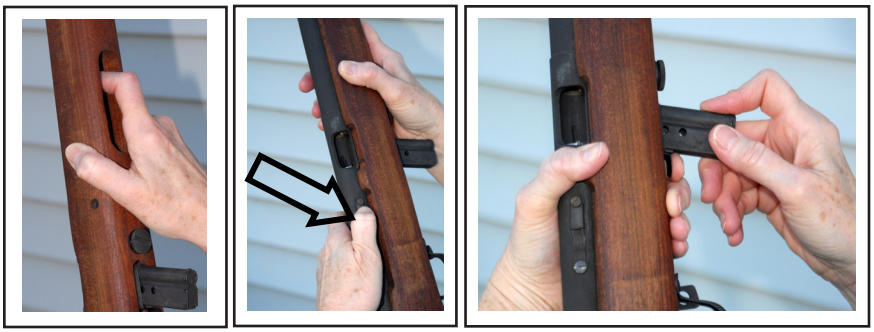
CLEARING A BOLT ACTION .22 CAL. RIFLE:

1) Grasp and lift the bolt handle, 2) pull it to the rear until it hits the bolt stop, 3) remove the magazine (if rifle has removable magazine) and 4) visually inspect the chamber and magazine well to be sure the rifle is clear.

CLEARING AN M1 CARBINE:

1) Grasp the operating slide handle and pull to the rear, 2) while holding it in its rearmost position, depress the operating slide stop (a small pin on the top rear of the operating slide) to lock the operating slide open, 3) remove the magazine and 4) visually inspect the chamber and magazine well to be sure the rifle is clear.

CLEARING AN H&R SEMI-AUTO .22 CAL. RIFLE:



1) Place index finger on head of operating rod (in fore-arm recess) and press it to the rear, 2) while holding the operating rod in its rearmost position, depress the bolt stop on the right side of the action (push release collar forward and press down against the spring) to lock the bolt open, 3) depress the magazine release (lever just behind the magazine) and remove the magazine, and 4) visually inspect the chamber to be sure the rifle is clear.

No rifle is considered cleared until its action is open, its chamber is empty and its magazine (if the rifle has a magazine) is either empty or removed.

Kimber M82 with ECI inserted

To confirm that your rifle is clear, an ECI (Empty Chamber Indicator) may be inserted in the chamber. CMP rules require the use of ECIs in all rifles at CMP-sanctioned clinics and matches. Many clubs and ranges also require the use of ECIs in all rifles that are brought to their ranges. ECIs can be ordered through the CMP E-store.

In applying Safety Rule #2, "Open the Action—Clear the Rifle," it is especially important to know when a

gun can safely and properly be closed and when the rifle may be loaded. Here are some guidelines:

- On shooting ranges, rifle actions must be kept open at all times with the chamber and magazine removed or unloaded, except when the shooter is on a firing point on the firing line and the range officer has authorized preparation for firing or actual live firing.
- When a rifle is used for hunting, cartridges may be loaded with the action closed when the rifle is in the field, but it must then be carried with the safety engaged and fingers outside of the trigger guard.
- When a gun is stored in a gun case, gun safe or other secure storage, it is proper to close the action and pull the trigger to release tension on the firing pin spring before storing it. Always start this process with a cleared gun.

SAFETY RULE 3 -- DO NOT TOUCH THE TRIGGER UNTIL READY TO FIRE

The third rule of gun safety is to keep your finger off of the trigger until you are actually ready to fire. Place your finger inside the trigger guard and onto the trigger only after you begin to aim at your target. Your fingers must be outside of the trigger guard when you first pick up a gun or accept it from another person. As you take control of the gun, get the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and clear the rifle to be sure it is unloaded. The rifle can then be carried or transported to where it will be fired or stored. When you fire or dry fire the rifle, continue to keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until it is lifted into position on your shoulder and you start to aim at a target. The proper time to place your index finger on the trigger is AFTER YOU LIFT THE RIFLE TO YOUR SHOULDER AND BEGIN TO AIM AT YOUR TARGET.

Keep your finger on the trigger guard and off of the trigger while lifting the rifle into position on your shoulder. Move the trigger finger onto the trigger when you begin to aim at the target.

3. MORE SAFETY GUIDELINES

In addition to the three fundamental rules of safe gun handling, there are other important safety guidelines that help to ensure safety. These guidelines augment the fundamental rules of safe gun handling.

EVERYONE IS A SAFETY OFFICER

As a gun owner who knows how to handle guns safely, you have a responsibility not only to apply the three rules of safe gun handling yourself so that you never commit a

safety infraction, but you also have a responsibility to make sure anyone near you who is handling guns does so safely. Anyone with a knowledge of gun safety is responsible for acting as a "safety officer" any time someone around them handles guns unsafely. If you see someone pointing a gun at another person, handling a gun with its action closed or handling it with their finger on the trigger, you must intervene to remind that person that you expect them to follow the gun safety rules too. Usually a calm, polite reminder is all that is needed to correct an unsafe situation. However, never forget that you have this responsibility.

PROTECT YOUR EYES & EARS

Everyone on a range where firearms of any type are used is urged to wear eyeglasses or shooting glasses to protect their eyes and ear plugs or ear muffs to protect their hearing.

ALWAYS wear shooting glasses or eyeglasses and ear protection when you fire your rifle. Eye and hearing protection must also be worn when you are present on a range when firearms are fired. Your vision and hearing are priceless and irreplaceable so protect them.

If something does go wrong and fragments of a cartridge case or firearm are sent flying, eye or shooting glasses can mean the difference between protecting your vision and possible loss of sight. High quality shooting glasses or industrial-grade safety glasses with shatter-resistant polycarbonate lenses are recommended, but most prescription eyewear today is made with polycarbonate lenses that can adequately protect the eyes, except in unusual circumstances.

The firing of all firearms generates extremely loud, impulse sounds that are well beyond the threshold where hearing loss occurs from exposure to loud noises. The only way to prevent hearing loss from sounds generated by firearms is to wear hearing protection in the form of ear plugs or ear muffs. Hearing loss from gunfire is cumulative and permanent so it is important to always wear hearing protection while on a range. Many experienced shooters, in fact, wear both ear plugs and muffs.

At the range, it is common courtesy not to begin firing until everyone nearby has been given an opportunity to put on their eye and hearing protection.

FIREARM TRANSPORTATION

When you are transporting your rifle or other firearms from your home to the range or elsewhere, there are some precautions to take to be sure your guns are transported safely. Transporting firearms may also be governed by laws in your state so you need to make sure you are in compliance with your state or local laws. To travel with your firearms, follow these precautions:

- Keep firearms unloaded. The action on a firearm may be closed during travel, but only after you double-check to be sure the chamber and magazine are clear.
- Place firearms to be transported in a protective, locked case.
- When using public transportation, check with the carrier prior to departure to find out what regulations apply.

- As soon as you arrive at the range with your firearms, open the action of any gun you bring to the range (insert an ECI especially if required on your range).

SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS

Firearms that are not in use must be stored. The fundamental rule in storing firearms is to use a method of storage which ensures that no unauthorized or untrained person has access to them. Younger children and their friends or anyone who has not received firearms safety training should not have access to firearms. Firearms storage procedures are also intended to protect firearms from damage or theft. Keep these things in mind when you store your firearms:

The recommended method of firearm storage is to keep them in a gun safe or locked gun cabinet.

- Recommended firearms storage methods are a gun safe or a locked gun cabinet.
- If firearms are not kept in a safe or locked cabinet, they should be secured from access by unauthorized persons by attaching a trigger lock.
- Firearms should be cleaned and lightly oiled prior to storage.
- When a firearm is placed in storage, check it again to be sure it is unloaded and clear. You may then close the action and pull the trigger to release tension on the hammer or firing pin spring.
- When removing any firearm from storage, immediately open the action and handle it with the action remaining open.

TRIGGER LOCKS

A trigger lock is a two-piece device that clamps over the trigger and trigger guard so that when it is locked in place, the trigger cannot be accessed or pulled. Trigger locks are secured by a key or a locking mechanism. Trigger locks should never be used if the firearm is loaded or as a substitute for proper and safe firearm handling. A responsible adult who has had firearms safety training should retain control of the trigger lock key or combination. Trigger locks suitable for use with rifles sold by the CMP may be purchased from the CMP.

Firearms that cannot be stored in a gun safe or locked gun cabinet should be secured with a trigger lock.

AMMUNITION AND AMMUNITION STORAGE

ALWAYS use high quality ammunition made to American industry standards. Make sure it is clean, dry, in good condition, and of the proper type and caliber for your gun. Defective or improper ammunition is responsible for many malfunctions and blown-

up guns. It is a good practice to store ammunition separately from your firearms. If unauthorized persons might have access to it, ammunition should be stored in its own locked containers.

The correct ammunition for the following CMP rifles is listed in the chart:

Rifle	Cartridge	Notes
M1 Carbine	Caliber .30 Carbine Cartridge	Use cartridges designated as Cal. .30 M1 Carbine or commercial equivalent cartridges designated as .30 Carbine.
M1917 Enfield	U. S. Caliber .30 Rifle Cartridge	Use cartridges designated as M2 Ball and M72 Match. Commercial equivalent cartridges are designated as .30-06 cartridges.
The correct ammunition for the Kimber M82, H&R M12, Remington 513T, Remington 40-X, Remington 541X, Mossberg M44US and M144US, Winchester M75 and Anschütz smallbore rifles is the .22 long rifle cartridge.		

Do not attempt to use any cartridges in these rifles other than those specifically designated for them. Do not oil cartridges or spray aerosol lubricants, preservatives or cleaners directly onto cartridges or where excess spray might come into contact with them. Highly penetrative lubricants can migrate inside cartridge cases and contaminate the primer and/or propellant powder. A misfire or a failure of the powder to ignite may result. If only the primer ignites, there is danger that the bullet may not exit the barrel and obstruct the bore.

Store ammunition in a cool, dry place, away from sources of heat. Heat shortens the shelf life of ammunition by accelerating the chemical decomposition of primer and propellant. Do not mix types of ammunition. Keep cartridges in their original box until you are ready to load them. At the range, put only the ammunition for the firearm you are currently using on the shooting bench. Do not put ammunition of different calibers or loads in the same box or leave them loose in your pockets or range bag. It is too easy to pick up and load the wrong cartridge, with potentially disastrous results.

Make a habit of regularly examining your fired cartridge cases, particularly when trying different ammunition. Watch for abnormalities such as punctured, loose, or excessively flattened primers; split, deformed or partially separated cases; rough or cratered firing pin indents, torn rims, etc. “Reading” the cases can reveal a lot about the quality of the ammunition and the condition of the rifle, allowing corrective steps to be taken before something bad happens.

RELOADED AMMUNITION

The use of reloaded (or “handloaded”, “remanufactured”, or other non-standard) ammunition is the most common cause of dangerous malfunctions and blown up firearms. If you purchased a center fire rifle from the CMP, please read this section before using reloaded ammunition in your rifle.

Reloading, especially for military rifles, requires a high degree of quality assurance which many shooters may not have the specialized knowledge or the equipment to establish and maintain. A cartridge that is improperly resized, primed, charged or assembled, or made from the wrong, defective or outdated components, can be extremely dangerous. It can slam-fire, cause a bore obstruction, produce a malfunction that sets the stage for an accidental discharge, inflict gradual damage to the gun or suddenly blow it up.

Such problems seldom arise from original factory-made military or commercial ammunition from major manufacturers who have the experience and facilities to produce it correctly. It is generally safer to use factory-made cartridges. Shooters who choose to use reloaded ammunition must accept full responsibility if something goes wrong.

The Civilian Marksmanship Program and the Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearms Safety, Inc. will accept no responsibility whatsoever for any personal injury or damage to the rifle or other property arising from the use of reloaded ammunition.

SOME IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS

ALWAYS keep your guns unloaded until they must be ready for use. If there is no need to load a firearm until later, don't.

ALWAYS check for any obstruction in the barrel whenever there is reason to suspect a blockage. After you receive your rifle from the CMP, it is especially important to check the bore to make sure all packing debris and grease have been removed. Bore obstructions are a major source of gun explosions.

ALWAYS positively identify your target and be sure there is a safe backstop behind it before you shoot.

ALWAYS hold your gun so that you can control the direction the muzzle points if you fall or stumble.

NEVER mix alcohol or drugs with shooting. Anyone handling and firing a gun must have a clear mind and be constantly alert.

NEVER allow any gun to point at you or pull a gun towards you by grasping its muzzle.

NEVER attempt to load or unload a gun inside a vehicle or building (except a properly constructed indoor range); there usually is no safe direction to point the muzzle.

NEVER shoot at a hard object or flat surface or at water. Bullets can glance off hard materials like rock, glass or steel, or skip off the surface of water to fly in unpredictable and sometimes dangerous directions.

NEVER set a loaded gun down or leave an unattended gun loaded. When a gun is loaded it should be controlled in the hands of a person who intends to fire it. If you must set a gun down, always unload it first.

4. KNOW HOW YOUR RIFLE OPERATES

Before you take your new rifle to the range to begin firing it, you must have a good understanding of how it operates. If you do not already know how to open and close the action on your rifle, operate its trigger, load it and unload it, you need to practice these things before you begin firing it. To do this, clear your rifle and take it to a location where you can handle it without allowing it to be pointed at another person. Remember that unless you have dummy rounds to use in practicing loading and unloading, this should only be practiced on a range where the rifle muzzle can be kept pointing downrange at a safe backstop. With your rifle pointed in a safe location, practice each of the following steps to make sure you understand how they work for your rifle. After that, you will be able to take it to the range and begin firing it.

OPENING AND CLOSING THE ACTION

Bolt Action (l.): To open and close a bolt action, grasp the bolt handle, lift it up and pull it to the rear. To close the action, push the bolt handle forward and down.

Semi-Auto (r.): To open a semi-auto action, grasp the operating slide handle and pull it to the rear. Depress the operating slide stop to keep the bolt open. To close the bolt, pull it back slightly to release the operating slide stop and let the bolt go forward.

TRIGGER OPERATION AND DRY FIRING

You need to be familiar with the operation of the trigger on your rifle before you begin to fire it on the range. Be assured that reasonable amounts of dry firing will not harm these surplus military rifles since all were designed to be subjected to extensive dry fire exercises during military training. To dry fire your rifle, first reconfirm that it is unloaded. Then while pointing it in a safe direction, close the action and place your finger on the trigger. Press the trigger smoothly until the firing pin falls with a "click." Note in particular whether the trigger is a two-stage or single-stage trigger. Two stage triggers have initial slack or free movement that must be taken up before applying the final stage of pressure. When firing two-stage triggers, which are common on military rifles, take up the slack or first stage when you first

M1 Carbine trigger with safety disengaged.

begin to aim at the target. Dry fire your rifle several times until you develop a good feel for how the trigger operates. While you are dry firing to learn how your trigger operates and feels, remember that one of the keys to good marksmanship is learning to smoothly press or squeeze the trigger so that the your aim on the target is not disturbed when the shot fires.

SINGLE ROUND LOADING

Your first range firing with your rifle should be done by loading and firing one round at a time. Many target shooting and range firing events, in fact, start by requiring shooters to load and fire one round at a time. Single shot rifles have a loading platform. To load a single round in a single shot rifle, place a cartridge on the loading platform. You can then either load it by pushing the bolt forward and closing it, or you can use your index finger to push the round into the chamber and then close the bolt. The magazine on most clip-fed rifles serves as a loading platform for single shot loading or you can insert the round directly into the chamber before closing the bolt. Some firearms like the H&R 65 and the M1 Carbine are not designed for single round loading. CMP rules for its M1 Carbine Match, for example, allow competitors to load all rounds from a charged magazine.

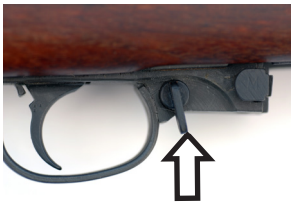
CLIP OR MAGAZINE LOADING

The first step in loading a rifle from a clip is to charge the clip. Place the rounds on top of the clip with the rim about half-way back. Press the round down into the magazine, then slide it to the rear so that the lips of the clip hold it in place.

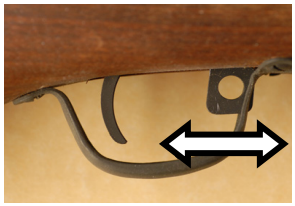
After charging the clip, insert it in the rifle. Make sure the clip release engages. Then load the rifle by pushing the bolt forward and closing it.

Loading a semi-auto rifle from a clip is done the same way. Charge the clip with no more than five rounds at first. Insert the clip in the rifle, then pull the operating rod back slightly to disengage the bolt catch, let the bolt go forward to pick up the round and push it into the chamber. With semi-auto rifles it is a much safer practice to always start the loading procedure with the bolt and operating rod locked back so the action is open.

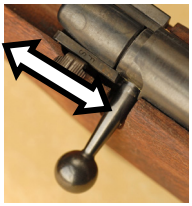
MECHANICAL SAFETY OPERATION



An M1 Carbine with the safety engaged or "on." This safety is disengaged by rotating it clockwise.



An H&R M65 with the safety engaged. This safety is disengaged by pushing it forward with the thumb.



A bolt action small-bore (M541X) with safety engaged.

Most rifles, including most rifles sold by the CMP, are equipped with mechanical safeties. When a safety is engaged or "ON," it blocks the trigger from being released or the firing pin from falling. When a safety is disengaged or "OFF," the firearm may be fired. Some firearms like those designed especially for target shooting may not have a safety or a functioning safety. A safety is a mechanical device that facilitates the carrying of loaded firearms. Military rifles are equipped with safeties so that military personnel can carry them loaded in the field. Hunters often carry loaded firearms in the field and always keep the safety engaged until they are ready to take a shot at game. If you are using a rifle in circumstances where it is desirable to carry it loaded, always remember that the safety is a mechanical device and subject to breakage or failure. Always control the direction your rifle muzzle points, whether or not the safety is engaged, and always keep your finger outside of the trigger guard until you are ready to shoot.

No rifle safety must ever be used as a reason for leaving a rifle loaded or for transporting a loaded rifle. When a rifle is brought to a shooting range, the rifle must be in an unloaded condition (see Safety Rule #2 on page 5), regardless of whether the safety is engaged or not. In fact, the most important and highest priority safety when a rifle is handled on a range is keeping its action open, except when it is on a firing point being fired. Never use a safety as a substitute for safe handling practices.

5. RANGE SAFETY RULES

There is one more critical set of information that you must master before you can take your new rifle to the range and begin firing it. You need to understand common range safety rules because they were developed to keep you and everyone else on the range safe. It is also important to remember that these range safety rules apply whether you are shooting by yourself, with one or two friends or are on a club or commercial range where there are lots of other shooters present.

RANGE LAYOUT AND SAFETY CONTROLS

The basic elements of a range are its ready area, firing line, target line and backstop.

- **Ready Area**. This is a marked or unmarked area behind the firing line where all shooters and visitors who are not firing must remain. Rifles brought from vehicles to the ready area must have actions open, be unloaded and, on many ranges, have ECIs inserted to confirm their unloaded condition.
- **Firing Line**. The most important line of control on a range is its firing line. All properly designed ranges have well-marked firing lines. The firing line is divided into firing points that correspond to the targets that are downrange. Firing points typically have numbers to designate where shooters position themselves to fire. Firing points on many club ranges may be equipped with benches to use during firing. Each shooter who is firing has a designated firing point. Once target hanging is complete, all firers are back behind the firing line and firing begins, no one is authorized to go forward of the firing line until firing stops and all rifles on the line have been cleared.
- **Targets**. Targets on rifle ranges are ordinarily mounted on frames that are set up at a prescribed distance from the firing line. Smallbore rifle shooting is usually done at 50 feet, 50 yards or sometimes 100 yards. Highpower rifles are typically fired at targets that are 100 or 200 yards away. You probably will need to bring your own targets and a staple gun to use in mounting your targets on the range's target frames.
- **Backstop**. Club and commercial ranges are always set up with backstops or berms that capture all fired bullets or with extended impact areas where no one has access during firing. If you fire your rifle on an informal range, it is important to be sure your target is mounted in front of a backstop or hill that will prevent any of your fired shots from escaping that area.
- **Range Officer or Range Safety Officer**. When firing is conducted on a formal range, someone who has had special training is usually appointed to act as the Range Officer or Range Safety Officer. This person is responsible for controlling firing by giving commands to commence and cease firing and for determining when it is safe to go downrange to change targets. Safety on the range depends upon all shooters obeying the instructions and commands of the Range Officer.
- **Range Commands**. If you fire your rifle on a range where a Range Officer conducts firing, you may hear him use formal commands to control firing. If those commands are used, you need to know that no one may load a rifle until the commands LOAD or COMMENCE FIRING are given, that no one may fire a shot until the command COMMENCE FIRING is given and that all firing must stop immediately if the command CEASE FIRING is given. On many ranges where Range Officers are not present, the shooters themselves will control firing when one or more of the firers give the command, THE LINE IS HOT. This means they have confirmed that everyone is back from downrange and behind the firing line and that it is safe to begin firing.

CARRYING RIFLES ON THE RANGE

Safely carrying rifles or other firearms on ranges requires that you comply with some simple rules. The first rule is that as soon as you arrive at a range and take your rifle from your vehicle, you must open the rifle action and be sure it is unloaded, with the magazine out. Remember, many ranges now require that you have an ECI inserted in your rifle whenever you carry it on the range. Absolutely do not carry a loaded rifle on the range. Loading the rifle must only be done on a designated firing point when it is authorized.

On a range you can carry a rifle in your hands if the muzzle is pointed up, you can carry it in a soft case as long as the action is open and it is unloaded or you can carry a slinged rifle over your shoulder.

The safest way to carry rifles on a range is with the muzzle pointed up and held above the level of the head.

HANDLING RIFLES ON THE RANGE

After you arrive at the range and carry your rifle to the ready area behind the firing line, you may have to wait until a firing point is free or the next relay of shooters is told to move up to the firing line. While you wait in the ready area behind the firing line, there are rules governing what you can or cannot do there. Above all, you must not close the action on your rifle or attempt to load it behind the firing line. You also may not shoulder your rifle or dry fire it behind the firing line. When you must wait in the ready area, the best thing to do is to lay your rifle down, with its action open and simply wait until you can move it and any other equipment that you might have to the firing line.

FIRING ON INFORMAL RANGES/KNOW YOUR TARGET AND BACKGROUND

If you plan to fire on an informal, plinking or private range, take special care to make sure your targets are mounted or placed in front of a secure backstop that will prevent bullets fired from your rifle landing on someone else's property and endangering others. A .22 cal. rimfire bullet can travel up to a mile and a .30-06 bullet can travel as much as three and one-half miles if it is not contained by a backstop. Also when you lay out your firing area, make absolutely sure it is controlled so that a person or animal that is walking through that area will not accidentally step into your line of fire. If you set up your own range, the full responsibility for making sure you have an adequate backstop and a firing area that is secure from accidental incursions by others is on your shoulders.

6. SPECIAL PROBLEMS

Every shooter who fires regularly will encounter problems that must be resolved to ensure the safety of the shooter and others nearby and to be able to continue shooting. Being a safe shooter requires having a knowledge of these potential problems and how to deal with them.

AMMUNITION AND MISFIRES

Always be sure of your ammunition before firing it. Mixing ammunition of different calibers or ammunition loaded to pressures too high for safe use in your firearm can cause an accident that may destroy your firearm and cause serious injury. Even when you use the correct ammunition, strange things sometimes happen. Knowing what to do when the trigger is pulled and a "click" or mild "crack" is heard is important. If this happens when you pull the trigger, your rifle might not be loaded, the round in the chamber might be defective, or the firing pin may be broken. Determine what caused the misfire before continuing to shoot. Regardless of the type of firearm, keep the muzzle pointed downrange at the target for at least thirty seconds. After thirty seconds has passed, examine the firearm in a careful, cautious manner. When a cartridge fails to fire, remember to keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. When you open the action, a failure to load will be obvious. If a cartridge was loaded and there is a firing pin indentation on the primer or rim, dispose of the faulty cartridge in a safe manner and continue firing. If there is no firing pin mark, your rifle's firing mechanism may be broken and a trip to a qualified gunsmith is a likely solution.

OTHER MALFUNCTIONS

Sometimes a cartridge will not feed from the magazine into the chamber. This may be caused by improper ammunition, an improperly loaded clip or magazine, a dirty rifle or rarely, a problem that requires the attention of an experienced gunsmith. Solutions include making sure your ammunition fits properly in the magazine (proper length, etc.), loading and seating your magazine properly and keeping the working mechanism of the rifle properly cleaned.

Occasionally, a cartridge will fire, but the empty brass does not extract or eject. This may be caused by improper ammunition, a dirty chamber or a broken extractor. If you find it necessary to use a cleaning rod to knock out the empty case, remove the bolt (if possible) and insert the cleaning rod from the front. If a cartridge fails to fire and does not extract, be especially careful not to position yourself or anyone else in front of the cleaning rod and barrel.

If a cartridge fails to fire, but only the case (minus the bullet) is ejected, this situation is potentially very dangerous. It is possible that the cartridge fired, but was a "squib" (weak round or no powder charge) and that its bullet is lodged in the bore. An explosion can result if another cartridge is chambered and fired. Immediately clear the rifle and attempt to clear the stuck bullet out of the bore. If this cannot be done, then absolutely do not attempt to fire another shot until you have taken all necessary precautions and corrective action described in the "Bore Obstructions" section of this manual (below).

BORE OBSTRUCTIONS

Barrel obstructions, especially from a bullet stuck in the bore, are a major cause of firearm explosions and potential serious injury. Immediately stop shooting and check the barrel for a possible obstruction whenever:

- You have difficulty, or feel unusual resistance, when chambering a cartridge, or
- A shot sounds weak or abnormal, or
- Unburned grains of propellant powder are discovered spilled in the mechanism, or
- You open the bolt to eject an unfired (or misfired) cartridge from the chamber, but only the cartridge case comes out.

In such instances a bullet may be lodged in the barrel. Firing a subsequent bullet into the obstructed barrel can produce an explosion.

An obstruction from a stuck bullet can occur if:

- The cartridge has been improperly loaded with insufficient or no propellant powder, or the propellant fails for any reason to ignite.
- The primer ignites on a cartridge with no or insufficient powder. The primer usually generates enough energy to push the bullet out of the cartridge, but not out of the muzzle.
- The bullet is not properly seated tightly (or seated too long) in the cartridge case. If such a cartridge is extracted from the chamber without being fired, the bullet may be left behind in the bore at the point where the rifling begins.

If you have any reason to suspect that a bullet is obstructing the barrel, immediately unload the firearm and examine the bore. Attempting to chamber another cartridge may push the first bullet ahead into the bore (or push the second bullet rearward into its cartridge case), making room for the bolt to close. If this cartridge is then fired an explosion is a probable result. It is not sufficient to merely look in the chamber. A bullet may be lodged some distance down the barrel where it cannot easily be seen. Use a cleaning rod to probe the entire length of the bore and determine if a bullet is lodged in it.

If a bullet is in the bore, DO NOT try to shoot it out by using another cartridge, or blow it out with a cartridge from which the bullet has been removed, or with a blank cartridge. Unburned powder left in the bore behind the stuck bullet can detonate with devastating results.

Sometimes a bullet lodged in the barrel can be removed by tapping it out with a cleaning rod, although caution must be taken. If considerable force must be used, the cleaning rod's open tip may expand causing the rod itself to stick in the bore. If the bullet can be tapped out, unburned powder may be left in the bore. It is imperative that the bore, chamber and receiver be thoroughly cleaned to remove all powder residue before shooting resumes.

If the bullet cannot be readily dislodged, take the firearm and the ammunition to a gunsmith. Do not use any more ammunition from that lot until both have been examined and the cause of the obstruction determined.

Soil, mud, snow, water, ice and vegetation, etc. also can lodge inside a gun barrel with possible dangerous consequences. If the muzzle of your rifle comes into contact with the ground, or you have reason to suspect that something has gotten into the barrel, unload the rifle, remove the bolt and look through the bore or check it with a cleaning rod (semi-autos). If anything is there, clean it out with a rod. Never attempt to shoot it out; the barrel may burst and you could be seriously hurt.

7. TIPS FOR ACCURATE SHOOTING

Rifles are designed and made to be fired accurately at distant and often very challenging targets. Your enjoyment of your rifle can be greatly enhanced if you are able to shoot it accurately, not just to test the rifle's accuracy, but also to test your marksmanship skill while firing in different firing positions. This section of the ***CMP Rifle Safety Manual*** contains a series of short tips on recommended firing positions and fundamental shooting techniques that you must master to become an accurate marksman.

FIRING POSITION--BENCH REST OR SUPPORTED

If you are an experienced shooter, you are already familiar with the standard rifle firing positions that include the bench rest or supported position, standing, prone, sitting and kneeling. If you are an inexperienced shooter, the CMP recommends that you do your initial range firing from a bench rest or supported position. This will allow you to concentrate on learning and practicing proper shot technique and sighting in your rifle before you start practicing the more challenging firing positions, standing, prone, kneeling and sitting. Firing from a supported or bench rest position is also the fundamental means of testing the accuracy of your rifle.

To establish a stable supported position, place a rest or support on a bench or table that is high enough to allow the rifle to be held comfortably in the shoulder while sitting behind the table. The shooter sits in a chair and holds the rifle with both hands and shoulder while resting the fore-end on the support and both elbows on the table. It is important to relax so that the support is allowed to steady the rifle.

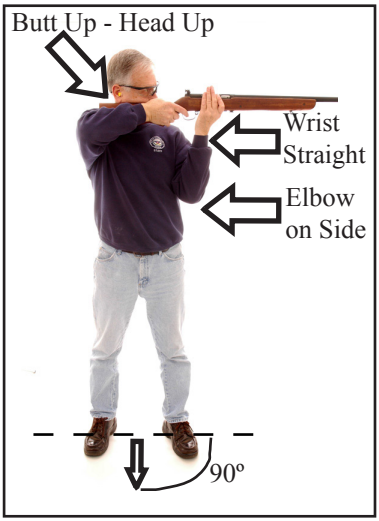
In the supported position, the rifle is placed on a rest or support, which can be anything from a couple of sand bags to an adjustable bench rest support. The support is in turn placed on a sturdy bench rest or table. Many gun club ranges are equipped with bench rests for this purpose. It is also possible to use a support while lying in the prone position.

An even steadier supported position can be achieved by supporting the rifle fore-end on a rest and supporting the buttstock on a sand-bag or soft support that can be moved to fine-tune the aim of the rifle.

FIRING POSITION--STANDING

The standing position is easy to learn, but it is inherently the least stable firing position. One of the great challenges in rifle shooting is to develop the skill to fire accurate shots in the standing position, but to do this requires a considerable amount of dry and live fire practice over many months and even years. Follow these steps to attain a good standing position that with practice can produce an amazing level of stability:

1. Turn your body 90 degrees away from the target so that your left side (right-handed shooter) is towards the target.
2. Rest your left elbow and upper arm on your left side so that the left elbow is directly under the rifle. Let this arm relax on the side—you do not have to hold the rifle up with muscles—use bone support.
3. Place the butt of the rifle well up in the shoulder so that your head remains erect as it looks through the sights.
4. Use a left hand position that raises the rifle up to the level of the targets. Start with the wrist straight. Grasp the rifle between the thumb and first knuckle or in the fork of the hand.



FIRING POSITION--PRONE

Next to the bench rest position, prone is the steadiest firing position; it is often used in target shooting. The key to attaining a really steady prone position is learning to use a sling (see below). Follow these steps to assume a great prone position:

1. Lie on the shooting mat or ground at about a 30 degree angle to the target.
2. Form a straight line along the side of your body from your left foot to your left hand that holds the fore-end of the rifle. Put your left elbow directly under that left side line.
3. Place the butt plate up in your shoulder so that you can look through the sights comfortably.
4. Shift your left hand forward or rearward until you raise the rifle sights to the level of the target.
5. If you are using a sling, as recommended, tighten the sling until it takes over supporting the rifle (see next section for how to use sling).

FIRING POSITION--USING A LOOP SLING

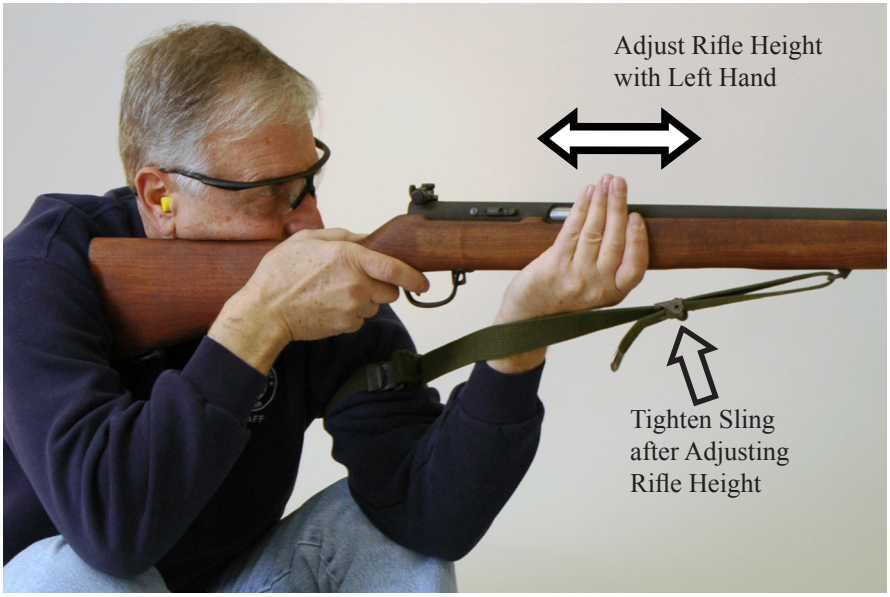
A popular misconception among new shooters is that slings are only useful for carrying rifles. Anyone who thinks that is missing out on one of the most effective ways to improve their rifle marksmanship. The steadiest positions are positions where the sling is used. Military-type web or leather slings are commonly used with military rifles. There are several makes of target-type slings that are used with smallbore target rifles. If you have not learned how to use a sling, the military web sling is the easiest to use in learning how to use a sling correctly. If you have not worked out the proper adjustment for your sling, start by putting the sling on your arm before you get into position. Be sure to start with the sling adjusted so that it will be too long, that is, very loose. Then 1) get into position, 2) establish the location of the butt-plate in your shoulder, 3) move your left hand forward or backward to raise the rifle sights to the level of the target and, 4) tighten the sling. After you have your sling adjusted, mark the length adjustment for your position so that you can quickly return to that adjustment the next time you go to the range.

Step 1: Open the loop on the sling—turn it one-half turn to the left.

Step 2: Insert the left arm into the sling loop.

Step 3: Place the sling as high on the arm as it will go; tighten the sling loop on the arm.

Step 4: With the sling loop on the arm, extend the left arm and wrap it around the sling in a clockwise motion so that the sling passes over the back of the hand and wrist.



Step 5: After you have the rifle in position on your shoulder and locate your left hand on the fore-end (right-handed shooter) so that the sights are raised to the level of the targets, tighten the sling until it takes over the work of holding up the rifle.

FIRING POSITION--USING A HASTY SLING

The standard sling for the M1 Carbine is a simple strap that was intended primarily as a carrying sling, but which also can be effectively used to build a steadier firing position. The Carbine sling attaches to the left side of the Carbine. Use it in the "hasty sling" configuration by extending it so that it hangs loosely, and then place your left arm between the sling and Carbine. The part of the sling nearest the butt should pass over the back of the upper arm. Extend your left arm and wrap it clockwise around the sling. When you get into position with the butt in your shoulder and your left hand located in a location that holds the Carbine sights at the desired height, the sling should be tight enough that it helps to effectively steady your aim. If the sling is too long or too short, adjust it until it becomes a steady support aid.

The M1 Carbine sling used in the "hasty sling" configuration. The left arm simply wraps around the sling. When sling length is adjusted, this type of sling can also improve the stability of a firing position.

FIRING POSITION--SITTING

The sitting position is a standard firing position in high-power rifle and Rimfire Sporter target shooting and is a favorite of hunters. Two sitting position variations are commonly used in target shooting, the cross-legged position, where the legs are crossed and pulled back close to the body, and the cross-ankled position, where the legs are crossed and extended. A few shooters still use the old open-legged position. Follow these steps to develop a steady sitting position:

1. Sit on the shooting mat or ground with your body turned about 45 degrees away from the target.
2. Try the cross-legged position first. Cross your left leg over your right (right-handed shooter) and pull your legs back to your body.
3. With the rifle in your hands, rest both elbows in the bends of your knees.
4. With the butt-plate well up in your shoulder, shift your left hand back and forth to raise the rifle sights to the desired height. If you can do this comfortably, stick with the cross-legged position.

5. If the cross-legged position is uncomfortable and the rifle wants to point low, switch to the cross-ankled position. Extend your legs forward, still with the left leg crossed over the right.
6. In the cross-ankled position, reach over the knees with your elbows and place them on the legs below the knees.
7. Shift your left hand position to raise or lower the rifle and complete the position.
8. If you cannot get either the cross-legged or cross-ankled position to work, you can try the open-legged position with both legs uncrossed and extended.

FIRING POSITION--KNEELING

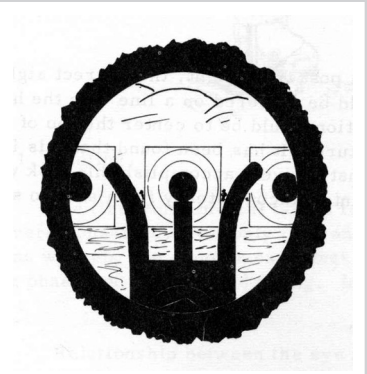
The kneeling position is used in competitions that are modeled after the Olympic and international program. Kneeling is also a very practical hunting position. As a field expedient, a shooter can kneel and sit on his foot, however, in target shooting, a kneeling roll is normally placed under the instep of the right foot (right-handed shooter). Follow these steps to work out an excellent kneeling position:

1. Kneel on the floor or ground with your body turned 30 to 45 degrees away from the target.
2. Place a small kneeling roll (4-5 in. in diameter) under your right instep and sit on that heel. Let your body weight rest on your heel.
3. With the rifle held in both hands, rest your left elbow on the knee or just behind the knee.
4. With the butt-plate well up in your shoulder, shift your left hand back and forth to raise the rifle sights to the desired height.
5. If needed, you can rotate the entire position while pivoting on the kneeling roll to make sure the rifle points naturally at the target.

SHOT TECHNIQUE--AIMING

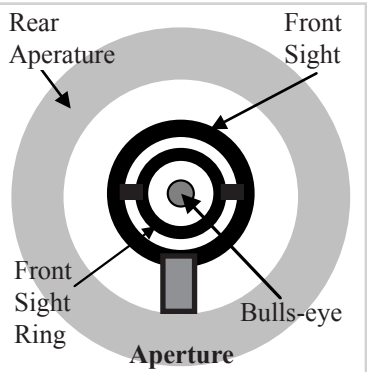
After the rifle is lifted into the shoulder in a firing position, the shooter begins what is called the "shot technique" or the firing of the shot. Shot technique refers to the series of actions you perform to fire an accurate shot after you have the rifle in a firing position. Shot technique includes: 1) Aiming, 2) Breath Control and 3) Trigger Control.

Aiming is the precise alignment of the eye, rear sight, front sight and target so that the rifle is pointed at the center of the target. The M1 Carbine has typical military-type sights. It has a rear sight with an aperture. The rear sight also has adjustments for windage and elevation.



Correct sight picture with military-type sights

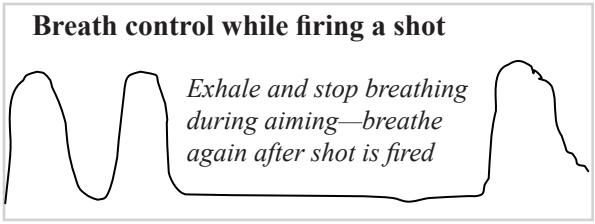
To aim with military-type sights, look through the rear aperture and center the front sight post in the center of the rear aperture opening. Then align the top of the front sight post on the target (see illustration).



Proper sight picture with a target-type aperture front sight

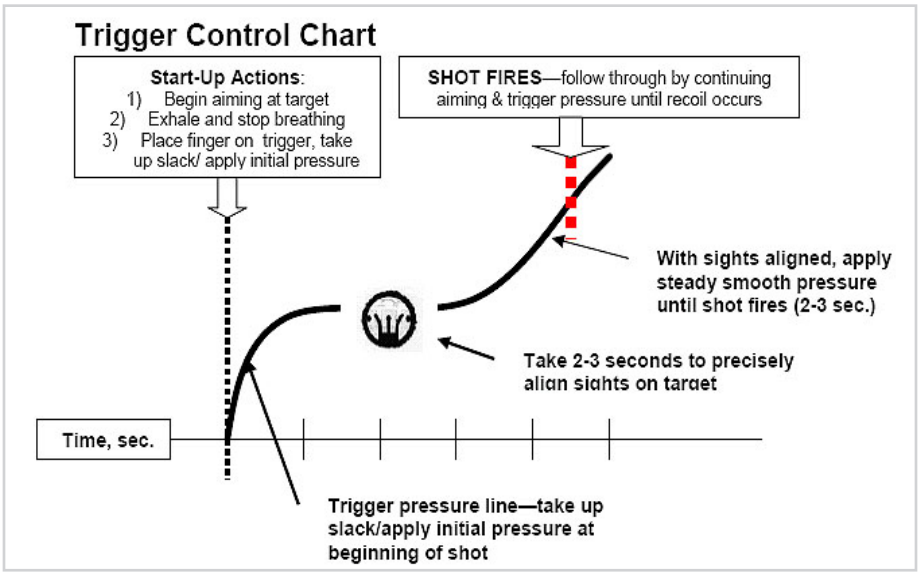
The Kimber M82 smallbore rifle is delivered with excellent target-type front and rear sights. Most other smallbore rifles sold by the CMP are not shipped with sights, but they can be purchased separately from the CMP or commercial sources. If your smallbore rifle is equipped with target front and rear sights, aiming with these sights is very similar to aiming with military-type sights. Target rear sights have windage and elevation adjustments and an aperture through which to aim. Target front sights typically have a hood in which front sight inserts (ring or post) are placed. To aim with these sights, look through the rear aperture, center the front sight hood in the rear aperture opening and then align the front sight ring or post with the target (see illustration).

SHOT TECHNIQUE--BREATH CONTROL



At the same time a shooter begins to aim at a target, a simple breath control technique must be performed. Since breathing while attempting to fire an accurate shot would move the rifle and disturb the aim, the breath must be held during aiming. When you get ready to fire a shot by bringing the rifle up to your shoulder, continue to breathe normally. When the rifle is on your shoulder and you look through the sights to begin to aim or align your sights on the target, take one more breath, exhale and stop breathing until after the shot is fired.

SHOT TECHNIQUE--TRIGGER CONTROL



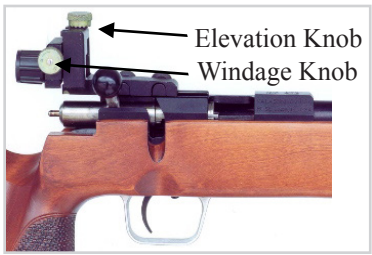
After the rifle is lifted up to the shoulder in a firing position, three simultaneous actions take place: 1) the sights are aligned and pointed at the target, 2) the breath is exhaled and breathing stops and 3) the index finger is moved off of the trigger guard onto the trigger to take up the trigger slack or apply initial pressure on the trigger. After that, take two or three seconds to precisely align the front sight on the target and then apply steady, smooth pressure on the trigger until the shot fires. The pressure should continue to smoothly increase through the shot until you see the front sight jump from recoil.

When you fire from a steady bench rest position, you can carefully align the sights to attain a steady, nearly perfect sight picture. However, when you aim in the other firing positions, your ability to hold the sights still on the target will depend upon how much practice you have had shooting in the prone, standing, sitting or kneeling posi-

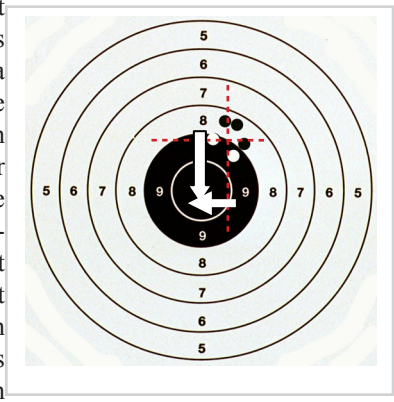
tions. New shooters will see lots of movement in their sights, even in the prone position. Just remember that this is perfectly normal. The correct way to deal with sight picture movement is to CENTER THE FRONT SIGHT MOVEMENT OVER THE TARGET (aiming point) WHILE YOU APPLY STEADY, SMOOTH PRESSURE TO THE TRIGGER. It is a serious mistake to try to grab or snap the trigger as the front sight quickly passes over the target (jerking the trigger).

SIGHT ADJUSTMENT

Start your shooting by firing a three or five-shot group at a paper target that allows you to see whether your shots are hitting the center of the target. If your shot group is centered, your rifle is said to be zeroed. If your shot group is not striking the center area of your target, you need to adjust the sights so that subsequent shot groups fired with that rifle will be zeroed. Follow these steps to adjust the sights on your rifle and zero it:



1. The first step in sight adjustment is to find out how your sights work. Identify the sight's windage and elevation knobs and how far a click of adjustment on that sight will move the shot group. Target-type sights found on smallbore rifles usually adjust in clicks or increments of 1/5th, 1/4th or 1/3rd minute of angle. One minute of angle equals approximately one inch distance on a target at 100 yards. A 1/4th minute click adjustment would move the point of impact 1/4th inch at 100 yards. Most target-type sight knobs have direction arrows indicating the direction to turn the knob to move a shot group in that direction (Caution: Some European sights move shot groups in a direction opposite to the arrows). M1 Carbine sights have one minute of angle windage clicks and a slide that adjusts elevation in increments of five minutes of angle (five inches at 100 yards).



2. Fire a group of three to five good shots; determine the center of the group. Sometimes it is necessary to ignore poor shots or fliers when determining the shot group center.
3. Calculate the vertical distance from the center of your shot group to the center of the target in minutes of angle. Convert that distance to clicks of elevation on the sight and apply the change.

4. Calculate the horizontal distance from the center of your shot group to the center of the target in minutes of angle. Convert that distance to clicks of windage on the sight and apply the change.
5. Fire another group of three or five shots on a target. If the group is not centered, go through steps 3 and 4 again. It may be necessary to fire three or four groups followed by sight adjustments before the rifle is properly zeroed.

BECOMING A GOOD MARKSMAN--PRACTICE

Rifles are designed and made to fire accurately (inherent accuracy of rifle and ammunition) and to be fired accurately (marksmanship skill of the firer). The accuracy of the rifle is enhanced by keeping the barrel clean, keeping the rifle in good condition and by selecting good ammunition. Your skill as a marksman who can fire accurate shots in the different firing positions will come only from practice. You can improve your skills tremendously by dry firing at home, but you must also make frequent trips to the range where you practice firing at targets that challenge your ability. One of the best things about the sport of shooting is that marksmanship ability does not come from natural ability, but from practice. The more you use and practice with your new rifle, the better a marksman you will become.

8. PROPER CARE OF YOUR RIFLE

Proper care and maintenance is essential to being sure your rifle will continue to function properly. If the rifle fails to fire or malfunctions when you fire it, this may be due to a broken part. When this occurs, have your rifle checked by a competent gunsmith who can evaluate the problem and, if parts replacement is needed, be sure any broken parts are replaced with correct parts.

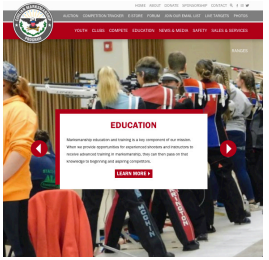
Each time you use your rifle, wipe it off with a lightly oiled cloth before placing it in storage. Clean any dirt or debris off of the stock and metal parts and be sure the metal surfaces of your rifle are dried and coated with a preservative. Your rifle should be thoroughly cleaned after extensive use. It is worth noting that so-called accidents which occur during gun cleaning are almost never accidents, but are instead the result of failures to follow proper safety procedures while handling and cleaning firearms. To clean your rifle, follow these steps:

1. Always start with a cleared rifle; the action must be open, the chamber must be empty and the magazine must be empty or removed.
2. Remove the bolt on a bolt-action rifle. Be sure the action is locked open on all semi-auto rifles.
3. Equipment and supplies needed to clean the bore include a cleaning rod, bore brushes, bore solvent, a jag to hold cleaning patches and cotton cleaning patches. Be sure the cleaning rod, brushes, jag and patches are the right size for the rifle bore (.22 or .30 cal.).
4. Extensive firing of .22 cal. rimfire bullets will leave lead deposits in the bore. Firing .30 cal. and other center fire rifles will leave copper and burnt powder deposits in the bore. These deposits are removed by this procedure:
    a. Attach a bore brush to the cleaning rod. Dip the brush in a bore cleaning solvent. Push the brush completely through the barrel and pull it back (do not reverse a bore brush inside the barrel). After several strokes, dip the bore brush in solvent again. Depending upon how much firing was done, this may need to be repeated a few times.
    b. Attach a jag to the cleaning rod and push two or three dry patches through the bore. If the patches continue to come out streaked or dirty, repeat 4. a. and follow with more dry patches.
5. Use a small brush to clean the interior of the action, bolt and bolt face. Keeping the action, bolt and feeding ramp clean is a key to sustaining reliable performance, especially during rapid fire.
6. Use a lightly-oiled cloth to coat the metal surfaces of the rifle with preservative.
7. Inspect the rifle, close the action, release the trigger and firing pin and place the rifle in secure storage, ready for use the next time you want to take it out.

9. CMP PROGRAMS FOR NEW RIFLE OWNERS

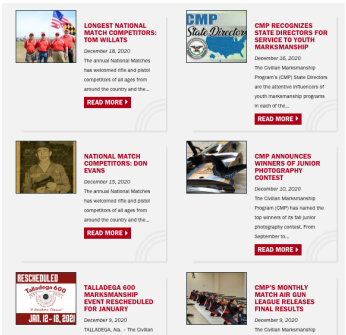
One of the best ways to enhance your experiences as a gun owner and sport shooter as well as to improve your marksmanship skills is to participate in organized marksmanship training and competition programs. The CMP offers a variety of programs designed to appeal to all types of sport shooters, from those just starting to learn marksmanship skills to advanced service rifle competitors whose goals are to win major events at the National Matches. This section tells you about CMP activities, events and resources that can help make your shooting sports experiences even more meaningful.

- **CMP Web Site**. One of the best ways to find out more about the CMP government surplus rifle and ammunition sales and shooting sports programs is to explore the CMP web site at https://thecmp.org. Start with the home page and open any tabs or icons that sound interesting to you. You will be pleasantly surprised at all of the sales and program information and resource materials that are available from the CMP.



www.thecmp.org

- ***CMP Shooters News*** **and** ***The First Shot On-Line***. If you want to keep up with the latest news about CMP shooting sports events, you should sign up for ***CMP Shooters' News***. This is an email newsletter distributed by the CMP on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. It gives you a series of short news items about events and upcoming activities. ***Shooters' News*** also previews new articles that are posted on the CMP's on-line magazine, ***The First Shot On-Line***. ***The First Shot*** offers new articles, typically with numerous photos, that provide detailed reports on shooting sports events and how-to technical articles authored by some of the best marksmanship instructors in the country. ***The First Shot*** also has an extensive archive of articles posted during the last fifteen years. Visit https://thecmp.org/email/ to subscribe to CMP Shooter's News and/or CMP Sales Updates. The CMP also has a Facebook Page, https://www.facebook.com/TheCMP.org/ and Like our page to receive the latest updates and program information.



The First Shot On-Line

https://thecmp.org/news-media/the-first-shot/

- **CMP-Sanctioned Clinics**. CMP-sanctioned clinics are conducted by CMP-affiliated shooting clubs to teach gun safety, range procedures and basic marksmanship to new and inexperienced shooters. Many active shooters who just want

to improve their skills also attend. Most clinics conclude with competitions or range firing activities. CMP-sanctioned clinics are ideal for anyone who wants to learn how to handle rifles safely and shoot them accurately. Students who attend clinics conducted by CMP-certified Military Rifle Master Instructors now receive a complete handbook on fundamental rifle marksmanship skills and range firing techniques. The CMP Competition Tracker web site at https://ct.thecmp.org lists upcoming clinics. To find out if there are clinics scheduled for your area, click on "Competitions," then on "Upcoming Clinics." The listings give dates, locations and contact information.

- **CMP Stores**. If you have not already visited a CMP Store, you are in for a special experience. CMP Stores are located at Camp Perry, Ohio, and Anniston, Alabama, and offer customers opportunities to inspect and select government surplus rifles that are on display. Purchase arrangements including NICS checks can normally be completed on the same day and customers can take the rifles they purchase home with them. CMP Stores also have a full inventory of ammunition, equipment and memorabilia items as well as training materials produced by the CMP. You can obtain additional information including purchasing requirements, directions and hours of operation from the CMP web site at https://thecmp.org/cmp_sales/cmp-stores/.

- **Small Arms Firing Schools**. Each year during the National Matches at Camp Perry, Ohio, U. S. Army Pistol and Rifle teams conduct two-day schools with both classroom instruction and lots of range firing under the tutelage of military coaches. The pistol school takes place at the beginning of the National Matches in early July while the rifle school takes place in late July or early August. These schools teach pistol and rifle marksmanship by using U. S. military M9 pistols and M16 rifles. The schools are administered by the CMP; Army instructors are assisted by members of other military pistol and rifle teams who act as coaches. They are one of the great bargains in marksmanship and a superb way to get started in shooting. Everyone who is signed up for the ***CMP Shooters' News*** email notices receives announcements regarding dates and sign-up times.

A coach and student working together at a Rifle Small Arms Firing School.

- **CMP Sanctioned Matches**. The CMP works in conjunction with affiliated clubs all over the country to offer hundreds of rifle matches that are "new-shooter friendly." The most popular of these matches are called "CMP Games" matches. They include seventeen popular events which allow shooters to reenact military and marksmanship history and feature camaraderie in a relaxed, fun-filled, yet challenging experience. Another fast growing CMP Games event is Rimfire Sporter that is fired with smallbore rifles that must weight less than 7 ½ pounds. Rimfire Sporter has competition classes for scoped (6X max.), open-sighted rifles and tactical rimfire rifles. All of these matches are fired over short courses of fire that usually do not last over one-half day and can be successfully completed by inexperienced shooters. You can find a detailed list of sanctioned CMP Games matches

on the CMP web site at https://ct.thecmp.org. Click on "View Upcoming Matches". ***The CMP Guide to Rimfire Sporter*** is a great resource for anyone interested in trying the Rimfire Sporter game. You can download it free from the CMP web site at https://thecmp.org/wp-content/uploads/Rimfire.pdf.

Many of the 4,000 shooters who participate in CMP events at the National Matches are recreation-oriented competitors who are there to enjoy the camaraderie and pageantry of the Matches and to compete against their personal standards of excellence. Pictured here are Vintage Sniper Rifle Team Match competitors. The Vintage Sniper Match is a team event fired from sandbags at 300 and 600 yards. Communication is key between partners is this challenging and fun match.

- **CMP Travel Games.** The CMP Travel Games, which have been a regular part of the CMP schedule for the last decade, are regional competitions created to give competitors the chance to participate in beloved CMP events found at the National Matches, but on a much smaller scale. Events fired at the Travel Games include the John C. Garand, Springfield, Vintage Military, Rimfire Sporter, Carbine and Vintage Sniper Matches. The Travel Games also feature a growing field of pistol opportunities, to provide guests with even more competitive avenues, and also include the recent addition of a Small Arms Firing School for new and experienced marksmen. Other informative clinics are conducted throughout the Games Matches by qualified CMP staff members as well. Information on the CMP Travel Games and on-line registration is posted on the CMP web site as soon as it is available; notices regarding dates and sign-up times are sent to everyone who is signed up for the ***CMP Shooters' News*** email notices (sign up at https://www.thecmp.org/email/).

- **CMP National Matches**. The National Matches take place each year in July and August at Camp Perry, Ohio. The National Matches include CMP National Trophy Matches that award prestigious trophies to national individual and team champions in service rifle and service pistol shooting as well as the National CMP Games Events that are attended by over 4,000 competitors. The NRA National Rifle and Pistol Championships are also conducted at Camp Perry in conjunction with the National Matches. The experience of attending the "Nationals" with its competitions for shooters of all levels of ability, its large commercial row and CMP Store and its pageantry and ceremonies is unparalleled in the shooting sports world. For most shooters who attend, the most memorable experience is often the camaraderie and fellowship they enjoy with other shooters from all over the country. Information on the National Matches and on-line registration is posted on the CMP web site as soon as it is available; notices regarding dates and sign-up times are sent to everyone who is signed up for the ***CMP Shooters' News*** email notices (sign up at https://www.thecmp.org/email/).

For additional information: Contact the Civilian Marksmanship Program, P. O. Box 576, Port Clinton OH 43452; 419-635-2141; info@thecmp.org; website: https:/www.thecmp.org

About the

CIVILIAN MARKSMANSHIP PROGRAM

THE CMP IS A FEDERALLY-CHARTERED NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO "PROMOTE FIREARM SAFETY AND MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON YOUTH"

CMP History, Mission and Governance:

- Established by Congress and President T. Roosevelt in 1903 as a U. S. government program to promote national defense preparedness through marksmanship.
- Managed by the Department of the Army from 1903 through 1996 as a program that fostered marksmanship and national defense by cooperating with gun clubs to conduct the "civilian marksmanship program" and annual 'National Matches.'
- Privatized by Congress in 1996 (36 USC); the new Corporation for the Promotion of Rifle Practice and Firearm Safety is a federally-chartered non-profit corporation that is now responsible for the mission and assets of the "civilian marksmanship program."
- Statutory mission is "to instruct citizens of the U. S. in marksmanship" and "give priority to activities that benefit firearms safety, training and competition for youth."
- Authorized by CMP's enabling legislation to sell surplus U. S. government rifles to qualified U. S. citizens "for marksmanship." Proceeds from these sales fund CMP programs.

CMP Programs:

- Provide instructor training, firearm safety and marksmanship teaching curriculum, and training materials for leaders in 5,000 affiliated organizations (JROTC units, 4-H Shooting Sports Clubs, BSA chapters, summer youth camps and gun clubs).
- Supports the U.S. Army's TACOM Life Cycle Management Command's Static Display and Ceremonial Rifle program by servicing and shipping M1 Garand rifles to eligible organizations for ceremonial purposes, at no cost to the government.
- Conduct the annual National Matches, as established by federal statutes, in cooperation with the NRA and Ohio National Guard; conduct an annual series of national youth target competitions for JROTC commands, National 4-H Shooting Sports and other national youth-serving organizations; sanction and govern over 1,100 training clinics and other marksmanship competitions sponsored by CMP-affiliated clubs.
- Cooperate with the U. S. Army Marksmanship Unit and U. S. Marine Corps Weapons Training Battalion to conduct training for over 1,000 students and instructors as part of the National Matches.
- CMP training programs now reach an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 youth per year with safety training and activities that foster youth development through marksmanship.
- CMP instructor training programs now train and support over 3,500 JROTC instructors and other youth program leaders each year.
- Current sales revenue surpluses are invested in a permanent endowment fund; the fund objective is to support CMP education and training programs in perpetuity.

www.TheCMP.org