

**MDTS 4hr Carbine Workshop 11-05-05, Otisco Lake Rod & Gun Club, Marietta, NY
Marc H.**

Chris Fry presented a carbine module to 14 students on a fairly decent (by recent standards!) November afternoon. I actually acted as a range assistant for this class, along with Adirondack1. Both of us took turns occasionally shooting a drill, but this was a different perspective for me in a course environment. Now I have a bit more appreciation for TonyF

The class was designed as a 4 hour workshop, intended as a basic introductory course. I think all who attended would agree a fair amount of material was covered, including some advanced materials. This can be both good and bad, as some of the basic materials I feel need more drilling for new students-but the idea here was also to give new carbine students an idea of what types of training materials is available. Obviously a 4 hour class can not achieve what a 2-3 day, much more time intensive (and expensive) class can do. About half the class had prior carbine training with FIRE Institute and PFC, among others, and this class was simply a nice review of skills for those people. More importantly, this was a new experience for some shooters. I hope they see and add to this thread as their perspective is more important than my own in this case.

The class started with a brief introduction about Chris, MDTS as they relate to weapons training. Chris included a quick rundown on M16 weapons system development and the role of the carbine in self-defense. He demonstrated the versatility of the AR15 in adding slings, optics, lights to the weapons system.

Before heading outside, Chris listed the range commands he would be using. Outside, with safed (orange twist ties in action), empty weapons, Chris introduced the concept of shooting stance-body alignment, and proper grip on a carbine. Bring the rifle to your head, not your head to your rifle. Chris advocates keeping elbows tucked in. I like this myself, but not all trainers do. This is why you take classes with different trainers. Try new things and see what works for you.

Chris also reviewed a number of shooting positions, low ready, high ready, diamond (indoor ready), and a few others.

Chris asked students to arrive with a zeroed rifle. We did not take (or have) the time to do a proper 50 yard zero. Since we did the bulk of our shooting from 5 yards and in, this was not an issue.

Students then loaded and made ready. They shot a 5- dot drill from 5 yards, a single shot from low ready to each dot. The concept of "hold-over" was introduced. A standard defensive response was then shot, 2 quickly aimed shots to each dot.

We then shot Progressive F.O.R.C.E. Concepts Tier 1 targets for the rest of the class. Chris introduced the standard defensive response, non-standard defensive response, failure drill, etc on the roughly humanoid targets. Chris introduced the concept of flash vs soft/hard focus sight picture, and what you can use as time/distance dictates.

Chris next taught some elements of combative gun handling-emergency and tactical reloads. Re-function drills, TAP, TUG, RACK, ROLL, TARGET. Next, after action drills were included. "Look and assess!" A number of drills were performed to emphasize emergency and tactical reloads. This is crucial stuff. Chris also talked about positioning of spare magazines, orientation, etc. This is all stuff each shooter has to decide for themselves.

We also did speed kneeling, vertical displacement. This was pretty much all we had time for in terms of movement.

Chris lastly introduced the concept of bilateral shooting, the transfer of your weapon from your strong to your support side, and keeping it operational. We did a few shooting drills bilaterally. This is a bit much for a basic class, but again was intended to simply give the new students some new ideas and tools to think about. This concluded the range portion of the class. A round-table debriefing was held indoors.

I feel the guys in central NY have a great opportunity to train with Chris and keep our old skills freshened, and learn new skills. I'm fortunate to be able to train with a good core group of guys who all have a great mindset on training.

Our future training modules will cover a mixture of handgun, carbine, edged weapons, and unarmed combatives. We will strive to keep a near-monthly class in the works as long as we can maintain interest. I believe we are planning a 4 hour block solely on knives and combatives held indoors for the winter months when range use is limited.