

FM 23-35

FIELD MANUAL

PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEPTEMBER 1971

FIELD MANUAL }
No. 23-35 }

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, D. C., 24 September 1971

PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS

	Paragraph	Page
PART ONE. PISTOLS, AUTOMATIC, CALIBER .45, M1911 AND M1911A1		
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1-5	1
2. MECHANICAL TRAINING		
Section I. Disassembly and Assembly	6-12	3
II. Functioning, Safety, and Operational Checks	13-17	24
III. Loading, Firing, and Unloading	18-20	30
IV. Malfunctions, Stoppages, and Immediate Action ...	21-24	32
CHAPTER 3. CARE, CLEANING, AND MAINTENANCE	25-34	35
4. AMMUNITION	35-41	38
5. MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING		
Section I. General	42-45	40
II. Preparatory Marksmanship Training	46-53	40
III. Quick Fire Training	54-55	46
IV. Range Firing Courses	56-67	48
V. Safety	68-70	55
CHAPTER 6. ADVICE TO INSTRUCTORS		
Section I. Training Procedures	71-74	57
II. Mechanical Training	75-80	57
III. Marksmanship	81-85	58
IV. Training Plans	86-87	60
V. Training Aids	88-90	60
PART TWO. REVOLVER, CALIBER .38		
CHAPTER 7. INTRODUCTION	91-92	74
8. MECHANICAL TRAINING	93-101	76
9. CARE, CLEANING, AND MAINTENANCE	102-108	81
10. AMMUNITION	109-111	82
11. MARKSMANSHIP TRAINING	112-118	83
12. ADVICE TO INSTRUCTORS	119-121	84
APPENDIX A. REFERENCES		85
B. TRAINING SCHEDULES		86

*This manual supersedes FM 23-35/AFM 50-17, 1 July 1968.

PART ONE

PISTOLS, AUTOMATIC; CALIBER .45, M1911 AND M1911A1

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. General*a. Purpose and Scope.*

(1) The purpose of this manual is to provide a source of information to individual soldiers and guidelines to instructors on the pistol and revolver. The material presented for the individual soldier includes mechanical training, marksmanship training, and other information pertaining to the care and handling of the weapons. The advice to instructors chapters are not intended as final solutions, but as starting points for commanders to use in establishing a training program for the pistol and revolver.

(2) Where training in the pistol and revolver is similar, reference is made to the paragraph pertaining to the pistol that may be used for training in the revolver. Where pertinent, simply substitute the word *revolver* for *pistol*.

b. Importance of Pistol and Revolver Training. The pistol and revolver are individual weapons intended primarily for self-defense in close combat. They are carried by members of weapons and aircraft crews and used as side arms in military police duties. The soldier must keep his weapon in good working condition and have the utmost confidence in his marksmanship ability. This ability can be acquired only through study and practical training.

c. Manual of Arms. Instructions in the Manual of Arms for the Pistol Revolver is not discussed in this manual. Details on this subject are found in FM 22-5, *Drill and Ceremonies*.

2. Changes

Users of this publication are encouraged to submit recommended changes or comments to improve the publication. Comments should be keyed to the specific page, paragraph, and line of the

text in which the change is recommended. Reasons will be provided for each comment to insure understanding and complete evaluation. Comments should be prepared using DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications) and forwarded direct to the Commandant, US Army Armor School, Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121.

3. General Description

a. Pistol. The Pistol, Automatic, Caliber .45, M1911A1, (fig. 1) is a semiautomatic, recoil-operated, magazine-fed, hand weapon. The pistol fires one round each time the trigger is pulled. The energy needed to operate the pistol comes from the recoil created by the rearward force of expanding powder gases of a fired round.

b. Magazine. The magazine (fig. 2) holds seven cartridges. The upper cartridge is stripped from the magazine and chambered by the forward movement of the slide. When the last cartridge from the magazine has been fired, the slide remains to the rear.

c. Rate of Fire. The rate of fire is limited only by the soldier's ability to change magazines rapidly, aim, and fire.

4. Differences in Models

The M1911 pistol is no longer a standard weapon for the US Army and only a few remain in the inventory. These will be modified as they appear in maintenance channels. The differences between the M1911 and M1911A1 pistols are minor and all parts are interchangeable. The M1911A1, developed from the M1911, was modified as follows:

a. The front sight was widened.

b. The notch in the rear sight was widened to correspond to the front sight.

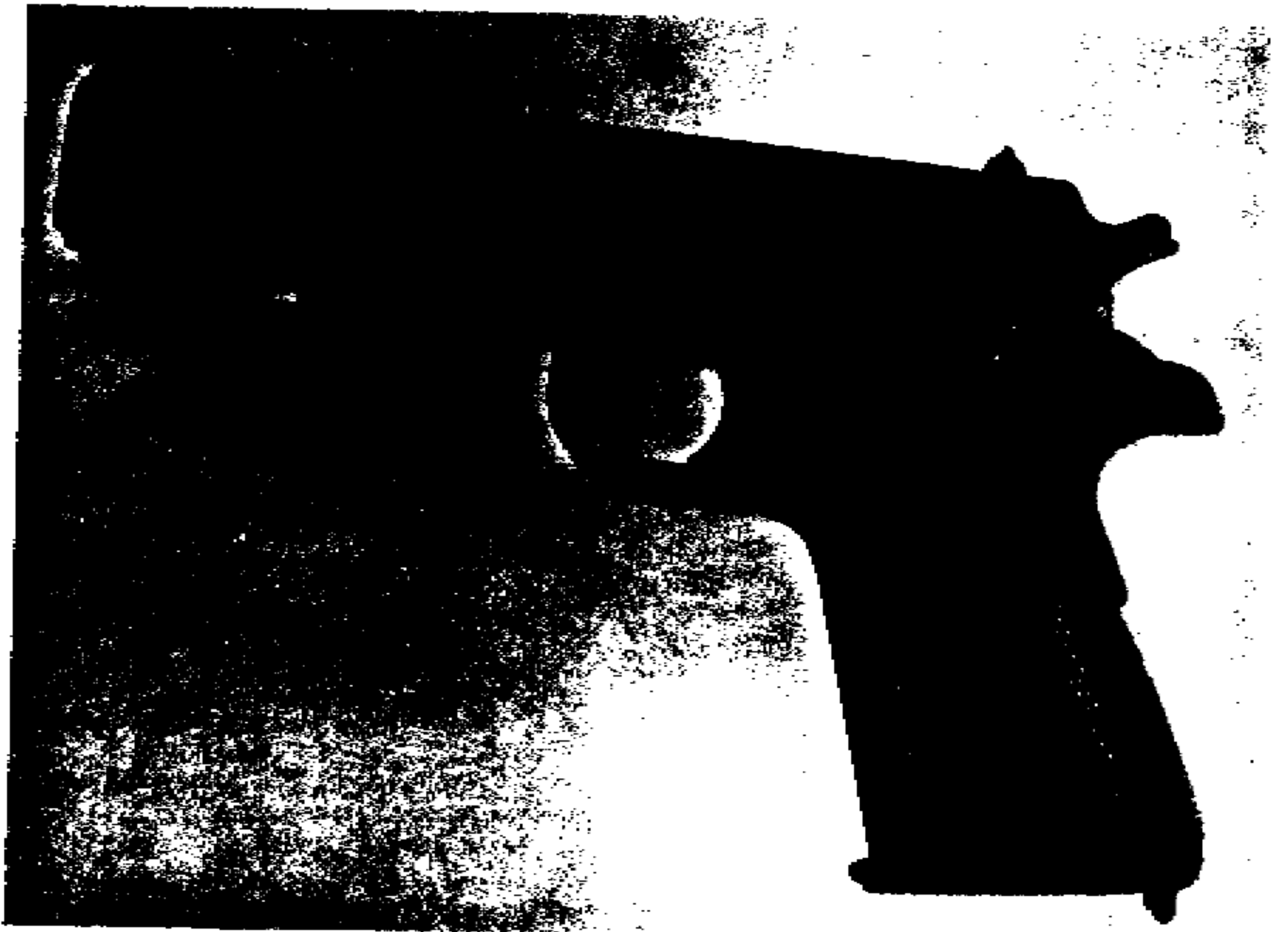


Figure 1. Pistol, Automatic, Caliber .45, M1911A1.

c. The tang on the grip safety was extended to protect the hand.

d. The mainspring housing was knurled and curved to fit the hand.

e. A clearance cut was made on the receiver for the trigger finger.

f. The face of the trigger was cut back and knurled.

5. General Data

Diameter of bore 0.45 in

Number of lands and grooves	6
Length of barrel	5.03 in
Rifling, left hand, one turn in ...	16 in
Length overall	8 3/4 in
Weight:	
With empty magazine	2.4 lb
With loaded magazine (7 rounds) ...	3 lb, approx
Height of front sight above axis of bore	0.5597 in
Sight radius	6.481 in
Chamber pressure (maximum)	17,000 psi
Muzzle velocity (maximum)	830 fps
Maximum range	1,500 m
Maximum effective range	50 m
Trigger pull	5-6 1/2 lb