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Subject: Marine Corps Shooting Skills

To: Jeremycc: Dennis, Christopher From: Douglas Horne/ARRB Date: 08/22/95 05:33:48 PM Subject: Marine Corps Shooting Skills
Here is what the USMC-Warren Commission correspondence reveals about the three levels of qualification, from highest to lowest: TYPE RIFLE RANGE & RANGE OF PERMISSIBLE SCORES "A" RANGE (500 yds max range) "B" RANGE(200 yds max range) EXPERT (Highest) 220-250 225-250 SHARPSHOOTER (Middle) 210-219 215-224 MARKSMAN (Lowest) 190-209 190-214
Oswald's service record indicates that he only fired "for qualification" with the M-1 rifle (i.e., for score which would be graded and recorded) twice, as follows: 21 DEC 56 (during boot camp in San Diego) SCORE: 212 ("A" range) QUAL: "SHARPSHOOTER" DESCRIP: "Fairly Good Shot" (USMC's words) 400 rounds fired 06 MAY 59 (Santa Ana, CA while at MACS-9) SCORE: 191 ("B" range) QUAL: "MARKSMAN" DESCRIP: "Poor Shot" (USMC's words) 200 rounds fired
Oswald was discharged 11 September 1959. Note that his last score was almost a failing score. The M-1 was a far superior rifle to the Mannlicher -Carcano. Government experts could not hit a stationary target with the M.-C. at fifteen yards. An informal source contacted me today after speaking with someone (a gunnery sergeant) who is presently on active duty with the Marine Corps. That person's subjective opinion is that today, the breakdown of skills is approximately as follows: EXPERT: 50% SHARPSHOOTER: 35% MARKSMAN: 15%
When queried about such percentages by J. Lee Rankin, the USMC POC (Lt. Col. FOLSOM) declined to answer, politely saying in bureaucratic language that it was "too hard" to figure out since individual scores were contained in individual records, and firing ranges destroyed shooting records within one week as soon as they were entered in service records of individuals. We shall see whether my request for contemporary regulations/documentation on such qualifications to Mr. Graboske sheds any more light on this subject. END

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