

Throwing Weapons

Weapons are a central aspect of military training. Throwing weapons are a special type of weapon. Carter and his comrades had to learn how to handle such objects effectively.

The last two weeks had gone by very quickly with duties, a lot of theory and field exercises. They were all motivated after getting better and better. Jimbo and Urma didn't make an exceptional job as commanders, but that wasn't the point anyway. Banes had told them it was about testing their leadership qualities. Carter and Kelly spent more weekends at his home because she didn't want to see her mother. Sometimes Rod and Leena also came along and they went on trips together. Once they flew to Henderson, where Kelly gave them a guided tour of the green-blue futuristic city where she had studied. Nevertheless, the lessons were usually exhausting and demanding, which is why they still had sore muscles on a regular basis. However, they were now quite good with the common weapons. That's why they were somewhat surprised when Major Dunn came with Jazzir during shooting lessons. When Rod asked if they would do something new, Dunn laughed out loud: »Fuck! Of course! Did you think everything would be settled with rifles and stun guns? There are so many kinds of weapons that you can't learn them all in one life. And you need to get to know a few more. Today we're going into the throwing weapons category. That includes everything you carry with you to throw into your opponent's fucking face. Grenades of any kind, knives, axes and surveillance equipment. And because I'm not familiar with shit as old as knives and axes, Catwoman here will take this

job.«

Jazzir didn't seem to mind this remark in the least, he even smiled about it. He picked up a gas grenade and showed it to them.

»Throwing weapons of any kind work with precision. Just like melee, it's about controlling your body and aligning your power. If you can aim well with a rifle, you can't automatically throw accurately. Apart from precision rifles, all firearms have a fairly straight trajectory because they are used at short to medium distances. A sniper must take into account the drop in the angle of flight of his shots. The same is true for throwing weapons, except that your body is the weapon and the grenade is the projectile. Since you have much less power than a rifle, the trajectory begins immediately. So you throw in an arc right away. This means that you should not aim at the spot you want to hit, but at the highest point, you want the trajectory to reach. From then on, the object will fall to the ground in a curve. And ideally, your target will be right on that line.«

He demonstrated this by drawing an arc on a digital board and explaining to them why a direct throw to the target did not make sense. But it all depended on the force of the throw, the object thrown, gravity and distance. But all theory was useless if not practiced, so everyone got a bag of fakes and they practiced throwing at a target on the ground. They immediately noticed another problem that Jazzir was addressing.

»If the grenade lands diagonally, it will roll a bit before it stops. If it comes from just above, it will jump up one or two more times before it comes to rest. These factors must be taken into account when throwing. Otherwise, it won't work.«

Kelly, who always threw far past, cursed and asked: »Why don't they just build a couple of fucking grenades that don't jump up again?«

Dunn laughed about her displeased nature: »Because you take advantage of these qualities. If you want to throw a grenade under a car because the fat guy in the back seat deserves to die, some politician scumbag that charges people fees or something, it's a good thing. The trajectory would never go beneath the car, so you have to throw it so that the grenade hits in front of the car and then rolls under it by itself.«

Even after a while of practicing, no one got the hang of it, but Dunn said they'd do it more often in the future. So it was Jazzir's turn. He had an arrowhead-shaped knife with a thin handle and a ring at the end as well as a small single-edged ax. He held up the knife.

»This is a throwing knife, a Kunai, as martial artists call it. Suitable for close combat and throwing. The task of a throwing weapon of this kind is to get stuck in the target. That means, it depends less on an artistic throw, but more on accuracy and power. The range of a knife is limited by the physical strength of the thrower. If an enemy is far enough away that you have to throw a bow to hit him, you should choose another weapon or get closer.«

Several targets were hanging a bit away. Jazzir threw the knife so fast and without a swing that the hissing was over immediately and the blade got stuck in the middle of the disc. He explained that it didn't matter whether you threw the knife from above, below or sideways, because it was sharpened so that the center of gravity always aligned the weapon with the blade forward. »And this is a throwing ax, the natives of your Earth called it a Tomahawk, and we liked the sound, so we call it that now, too. It must always be thrown from top to bottom because it rotates in the air before impact. If you threw it sideways, the throwing angle would influence the direction and you wouldn't hit.«

He threw the Tomahawk and it went down beside the knife. The recruits clapped impressed, but instead of reacting, he gave them knives and Tomahawks to practice. They tried it, but almost all missed. Only Carter had done this before and knew how to throw correctly. He threw all the knives at the disc, although with a rather large scattering circle. The others just stared at him in disbelief. Then he tried the Tomahawks, which he had never done before. It felt different than a slim knife, but it was good. Carter felt the power this weapon could have and instinctively hit the disc as the only one, unfortunately only on the edge. »A natural talent! Or just done it before?«, asked Jazzir.

Carter said that he had practiced archery at home and also occasionally threw a knife. Jazzir was amazed.

»These things are hardly practiced by humans in the age of technology. You are a rare flower in an otherwise green field. We will practice that more often in the future, but more like knives and grenades. Tomahawks are exotic weapons that take up too much space. However, Lorgans like throwing axes very much. That's why it's worth it if you can throw them back.«