

TANK DESTROYER SCHOOL
WEAPONS DEPARTMENT
Camp Hood, Texas

March 8, 1943.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

In order to bring accidental injuries and fatalities, caused by ignorance or carelessness, to a minimum, the following list of instructions for classroom and range conduct will be STRICTLY complied with by all concerned; students and instructors alike. All personnel will be instructed in all these matters upon entrance into the Weapons Department.

GENERAL - DUDS:

1. DON'T PICK UP DUDS. As far as you are concerned, a DUD is any projectile or piece of metal found lying about the range.
2. A partially or completely buried projectile should be considered a DUD. DON'T DIG FOR IT ! What might appear to be a shell fragment could prove to be a DUD.
3. Don't think YOU can unscrew a fuze without disturbing the DUD. KEEP HANDS OFF!
4. Because you can't see a fuze, don't think the shell is SAFE.
5. Don't scrape out unignited contents of H.E. or SHRAPNEL fragments. LET THEM ALONE!
6. Officers in charge of the range will explain to classes the nature and danger in handling DUDS before the classes start their first day of firing.
7. NO STUDENT will be allowed in the impact area before, during or after firing except in emergencies. In the event of an emergency he will be warned by the instructor regarding DUDS.
8. MISFIRES: After attempting to fire three times then waiting two minutes, the misfire will be unloaded and carried well out into the impact area by the officer in charge. It will be plainly marked. The Ordnance demolition squad will be notified as to its location at the end of the day. DUD signs will be made up with words "LIVE DUD" thereon for use on all ranges where needed.
9. No live ammunition will be used in a classroom except for permanent display purposes. This exception excludes any H. E.
10. No live ammunition will be stored in gun sheds other than the next day's firing requirements.
11. No live ammunition will be used for gun drills or other instruction behind the firing lines.
12. THE OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FIRING, INSTRUCTORS AND ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR RANGE DISCIPLINE.
13. Any breach of range discipline will be reported at once to the Officer in charge of firing.
14. ANYONE noticing a condition that will make firing dangerous will order "CEASE FIRING" and report the condition to the officer in charge of firing.
15. Wait until ALL guns are declared clear by the officer in charge of firing before advancing beyond the firing line.

16. All ammunition will be kept covered and protected from heat and moisture.
17. Upon the order "CEASE FIRING": All breeches will be opened and left open. Weapons will be cleared of ammunition. Gun Commanders will inspect chambers, then signal "GUN CLEAR."
18. A malfunction of any weapon or defective ammunition will be reported immediately to the officer in charge of firing.
19. NO SMOKING will be permitted on the firing line or within an area of five yards surrounding the ammunition dump.
20. In burning refuse on the range, each ammunition carton will be torn apart or crushed flat to insure that no live rounds are thrown into the fire. No fires will be left unattended before, during or after range firing.
21. During night firing, safety limits will have RED lights at the limiting points.
22. ON ALL RANGES, safety limits will be carefully pointed out to the students, warning them about not firing outside of these limits.
23. No student or assistant instructor shall have live ammunition, firecrackers or other explosives in his possession after the class has completed its firing. All such equipment, ammunition and other explosives must be turned in to the assistant instructor in charge of ammunition distribution.
24. The FIRST AID station will be centrally located. All personnel will be informed of its location before firing commences.
25. Weapons will be loaded on the firing line only. Gunners will load only upon being given the proper command by the officer in charge.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

SMALL ARMS AND GRENADE RANGES:

1. All equipment and ammunition will be checked by the officer in charge of firing before students participate in firing.
2. The disposal of trash, ammunition boxes and brass shall be under the strict supervision of the instructor but the responsibility shall rest with the officer in charge of firing.
3. Stoppages will be cleared by the student under the direction of his assistant instructor.
4. All demolitions and materials of an explosive or dangerous nature shall be under constant supervision of an assistant instructor. They will be placed far enough away from the class to insure safety.
5. Groups will work at designated points and under constant supervision to avoid the possibility of any student walking into the fire of other groups.
6. When not actually firing, magazines will be out, safety catches on SAFE with muzzles pointing up.
7. Assistant instructors will examine each gun for live rounds before removing them from the firing line for cleaning or other purposes.

8. Demolitions and smoke will be thrown to such a distance that the class will not be endangered. IF FS SMOKE IS USED, it must be thrown so that the wind will not blow the liquid smoke upon students.
9. Pit men working on targets will not leave pits until the guns have been cleared and placed on the firing racks.

COMBAT AND BATTLE FIRING:

10. All weapons will be carried with muzzles up and pointed down range at all times when loaded.
11. All weapons being fired over the heads of personnel will be secured by depression and deflection stakes.

INFILTRATION COURSES:

12. Same as Paragraph 11.
13. The trajectory of all weapons firing overhead will be at least 36 inches above the bodies of crawling or creeping troops the length of the whole course. The topside of the body plus 36 inches.
14. No object rising above the ground will be more than 30 inches in height.
15. No student or non-commissioned officer will be allowed to conduct infiltration or battle firing classes.

PISTOL:

16. In loading the pistol, the student will assume the position of "RAISE PISTOL" with the slide to the rear.
17. All guns must be cleared with slides back, checked by the assistant instructor and placed on the pistol stand before targets are marked.

MACHINE GUN SECTION:

1. HEADSPACE will be checked by a qualified assistant instructor before any gun is fired on the range. This headspace check will be made under the supervision of an officer.
2. All students MUST check for headspace each time before firing. If the student believes the headspace is incorrect, he will notify the assistant instructor in charge of his gun and have that instructor check before any change is made. DON'T CHANGE WITHOUT PERMISSION!
3. No one will cross over the firing line until all guns are clear, range flag is down and the officer in charge of firing has made a careful check to be sure clearing blocks are in all guns.
4. When flag is lowered, ALL firing will cease on the Black Gap ranges. Firing will not be resumed until the flag is raised and the officer in charge is certain that the range is clear.
5. Traverse and depression stakes will be used for demonstration guns during night firing.
6. Pit details will be thoroughly instructed as to the precautions they are to observe while in the pits.

a. The pit detail will remain in the pit at all times unless they receive orders to check or repair targets. FIRST, they must call into the central telephone and verify this order.

7. A clearing block will be placed in all guns on ranges when not actually being fired.

8. Guns may be used for dry runs on the range without clearing blocks provided the following safety factors are observed:

a. The officer in charge will have the blocks removed by the students who will feel in the chamber and T slot to be certain that a live round is not present.

b. Bolts will be latched to the rear with the cover down.

c. The officer in charge will have the assistant instructors check each gun to see that a and b are carried out.

9. Before any weapon is fired on the range a patch will be run through the bore to remove oil and clear out any possible obstruction in the bore or chamber. Headspace will be checked at this time.

10. No firing will be done at the ground near the pits.

11. For Antiaircraft firing, a safety man will be appointed to watch individual firing so that the gunner will be stopped from firing outside the safety limits.

12. Students will not be allowed to change barrels or guns from the front of the mount.

13. Any gun taken from the firing line must have the cover up and the bolt latched back while on the Antiaircraft ranges.

1000" AT RANGES:

1. All general rules for safety will be observed with one exception; the individual firing point at each target on the 1000" AT Range will be considered a range in itself so that personnel can go forward to mark targets without interrupting fire on the whole firing line.

2. No target will be marked or checked until it has been pulled to the center of the firing point.

3. ONLY THE ASSISTANT INSTRUCTOR AND STUDENT GUNNER will go forward to mark or check a target. All other members of the squad will remain behind the ready line AT EASE. The gun tube will be elevated to maximum elevation and laid for deflection to the center of the target run before anyone moves forward to mark targets.

4. No target will be marked or checked until the assistant instructor has inspected the weapon to assure its being clear. The breech will remain open.

5. Care shall be taken that sub-caliber shells will NOT BE ALLOWED TO FALL ON THE GROUND upon extraction from the gun or for any other reason. These sub-caliber shells are to be treated as any other loaded weapon.

TOWED TARGET RANGES:

1. All sub-caliber devices will be checked and kept tightened at all times.

No sub-caliber device will be removed from the weapon while a round is chambered. The bolt must be removed first. In the event it is impossible to remove the round or open the bolt, only instructors and their assistants will be permitted to remove the sub-caliber device in order to remedy the defect. All other personnel will remain at a safe distance from the weapon during the time it is being worked upon.

3. GUN COMMANDERS MUST order "CEASE FIRING" as the target reaches the safety limit.
4. All weapons will be elevated to the maximum before target crews go into the impact area.
5. At night, the officer in charge will use both the whistle and red light to signal "CEASE FIRING."
6. At night, all guns with overhead fire missions will have depression stops secured to the elevating arcs.
7. Guns with overhead fire missions must be placed at least 200 yards in rear of troops. Definite safety lines must be established and patrolled in front of the guns.
8. Minimum elevation for guns firing overhead will be 5 yards plus 2 forks.
9. Only boresafe ammunition will be used in overhead firing.
10. When firing reduced charge with M46 fuze at ranges less than 1000 yards, protection must be provided for all personnel not behind gun shields.

Recoil

Slide

Barrel

Barrel Bushing - Barrel Friction

Barrel Spring Plug

Recoil Spring

~~Recoil Spring~~ Guide

Recoil Spring Stop -

~~Recoil Spring~~

Slide Stop