



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
2D BRIGADE, 1<sup>ST</sup> ARMORED DIVISION  
UNIT 23704  
APO AE 09034-3704

AETV-THO-Z (100)

12 June 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Command Policy Letter 24, Live Fire Exercises

1. PURPOSE. To establish policies concerning Live Fire Exercises within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division.
2. APPLICABILITY. All soldiers assigned to 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division
3. POLICY.

a. Realistic live-fire exercises are absolutely essential to the sustainment of combat readiness in the 2nd Brigade. Live-fire exercises allow our Soldiers to train under the same conditions that they will experience in combat. The ability to cope with the stress and danger of live-fire exercises, and the discipline, confidence, and esprit that are developed in both the individual and his unit, cannot be over-emphasized.

b. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade conducts aggressive and realistic live-fire exercises because of the competence of our leaders, skill of our Soldiers, and thoroughness of our planning and preparation. Any breach of our performance or safety record in the area of live-fire exercises could result in the imposition of limitations and unrealistic constraints upon our live-fire program. This would be unacceptable and would adversely impact on the Brigade's combat readiness.

c. Objectives.

(1) As leaders in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, we must accomplish two simultaneous objectives in the execution of our live-fire exercises:

(a) Train safely.

(b) Train realistically.

(2) One cannot be prioritized over the other; one cannot be accomplished without the other. We must train realistically and safely.

d. Train Realistically.

(1) Live-fire scenarios will be written to realistic standards and executed under conditions that create a totally tactical battlefield. Units will remain tactical throughout the exercise.

(2) Dry/blank-fire exercises will be conducted prior to the live-fire exercise. The purpose of the dry/blank-fire portion, is to confirm that the range is safe and to function as a rehearsal. All Soldiers must participate in the dry/blank-fire portion of the LFX in order to shoot live.

(3) There will be no "junk" or other non-necessary equipment on ranges. Ensure that nothing detracts from the combat mentality we strive to develop in our Soldiers.

(4) Within range limitations, accomplish all requirements through tactical actions. Relay all instructions to the participating unit through tactical communications procedures and systems.

AETV-THO-Z (100)  
SUBJECT: Command Policy Letter 24, Live Fire Exercises

(5) For all live-fire exercises, attempt to incorporate the supporting fires which would normally be available at that particular level (i.e., platoon --mortars and AT; company -- artillery, TACAIR, attack helos, etc).

(6) Live-fire exercises are NOT firepower demonstrations. Scenarios should challenge leaders and provide maximum flexibility to react to the situation in a unique way. Avoid canned maneuvers, scripts, and positioning.

(7) Avoid the "white hat/range paddle" syndrome on live-fire exercises; it greatly detracts from the realism required. No separate safety NCOs will be used to rod weapons; this responsibility remains with the participating unit leader --just like it will in combat.

e. Train Safely. We must "train with safety." Safety requirements in training are no different than those for combat. Training accidents are wasteful, particularly during live-fire exercises. The following guidance prescribes minimum safety standards for live-fire exercises. Unit commanders may always increase the safety restrictions if the situation, terrain, or experience level of the Soldiers and/or leaders involved dictate adjustments.

(1) All live-fire exercises will include a detailed safety briefing to all participants.

(2) All live-fire exercises will have a designated OIC and safety officer (SSG or above) who are certified through the installation range control. Installation policy will dictate the OIC's level of participation in the live-fire; however, the safety officer will have no duties other than monitoring adherence to safety procedures during the exercise. The safety officer cannot be an evaluator or participate in any manner in the tactical exercise. His sole responsibility is to ensure compliance with required safety constraints. If a transfer of safety officer duties is required during a live-fire exercise, the OIC and safety officer will conduct a complete exercise scenario briefing to include a walk-through of the lane(s) involved. Safety is still the responsibility of the leaders. The safety officer should do nothing more than observe and confirm compliance with existing range regulations and/or commander's intent.

(3) Static ranges are defined as ranges that have a fixed firing line and do not involve maneuver (i.e., qualification/marksmanship ranges, demo areas, mortar points, etc). Units will conduct certification by Officers/NCOs who are installation qualified range safety officers/OICs. Range safety officers/OICs will personally approve the scenario and walk the range to ensure it is properly set up.

(4) Maneuver ranges are defined as ranges that involve fire and movement. Units will conduct the following actions for maneuver ranges:

(a) Company commanders may certify all ambush LFX scenarios (to include ambushes with a maneuver assault phase) up to platoon level. Battalion commanders will certify all other maneuver live-fire exercise scenarios. Certification will include a personal walk of the terrain to verify safety, compliance with range restrictions, and tactical realism.

(b) Leader's TEWT to review safety, realistic scenario, and range constraints. This TEWT will include leaders of the participating units down to the level deemed appropriate by the commander/leader conducting the TEWT.

(c) Safety briefing to all personnel.

(d) All Soldiers will be qualified with the type weapon they use in the fire team, squad, platoon, company, or battalion LFXs. This includes crew-served weapons gunners and assistant gunners. Qualification is defined as a Soldier having qualified on a weapon within 12 months of the date of the LFX on an approved range using FM standards. Additionally, the Soldier must have familiarized on the

AETV-THO-Z (100)  
SUBJECT: Command Policy Letter 24, Live Fire Exercises

weapon within the last 6 months. Familiarization is defined as having zeroed (may be a field zero) the weapon, fired the weapon within the last 6 months, and received PMI from his supervisor. PMI, along with observation by the chain of command during the blank and day live-fire portion of the LFX, will allow the chain of command to certify that the Soldier is both technically qualified to fire the weapon and safe. Soldiers will not employ any weapon or system, unless they receive a "go" on the **related Critical Task List/EIB** tasks by their leaders. Specific requirements that must be conducted NET 48-hours prior to execution of the LFX are:

- i. Units must conduct dry/blank rehearsals prior to any live-fire exercise.
- ii. Squad leaders must be confident of their subordinates' ability to IMT and fire his weapon.

(e) A live-fire exercise will only be conducted after the standard has been met and an AAR has been conducted for the dry/blank-fire. Leaders have an inherent responsibility to objectively critique each iteration prior to certifying the unit as a "go" to conduct the LFX.

(f) Dry/blank-fire exercises will be conducted just prior to the live-fire exercise. The purpose of the dry/blank-fire portions, is to confirm that the range is safe and to function as a rehearsal. All Soldiers must participate in the dry/blank-fire portion of the LFX in order to shoot live.

(g) Live-fire exercises will not deviate from the dry/blank-fire exercise (i.e., scenario, terrain, direction of fire, sectors of fire, charges utilized, etc). Deviations require a revalidation of the exercise in the dry/blank-fire mode.

(h) Prior to conducting a night live-fire exercise, units will successfully conduct a day live-fire iteration and a night dry/blank-fire iteration to validate the control mechanisms and Soldier awareness. This is done primarily because control and formations will vary under conditions of limited visibility.

(i) Maximize use of MILES equipment during the blank-fire phase. This provides an excellent training aid to reinforce proper tactics, techniques, and fire control procedures.

(6) Based on demonstrated unit proficiency and mission requirements, battalion commanders may waive prescribed standards as delineated below:

(a) Extend time separation between blank and live-fire exercises to 72 hours.

(b) Use of similar terrain for rehearsals and reduction in the number of BFX iterations in preparation for a night LFX.

(7) Battalion commanders may not delegate waiver authority nor waive any other prescribed standards without the Brigade Commander's approval.

(8) Only weapons/ammunition approved for use on respective ranges, and coordinated for with Range Control, will be used in the live-fire exercise.

(9) No leader is authorized to violate range and/or safety regulations on his own accord. Exceptions to establish regulations must be approved by Range Control. Do not assume anything. Check it out first and ensure whatever you are doing is authorized.

(10) Use of field-expedient or non-standard ordnance must be highlighted during the range certification. Procedures and restrictions will be approved by installation range control.

(11) The chain of command is solely responsible for safety. Chain of command involvement is inherent in LFX mission success.

AETV-THO-Z (100)  
SUBJECT: Command Policy Letter 24, Live Fire Exercises

AETV-THO-Z (100)

SUBJECT: Command Policy Letter 24, Live Fire Exercises

(12) Company commanders will be present for all platoon LFXs. If mission constraints prevent the company commander's presence, he may delegate authority to the company first sergeant or executive officer for squad-level LFXs and below to provide additional "eyes on" the exercise and experienced feedback to the unit.

f. My intent is to conduct all training safely, while providing the Soldiers with the most realistic live-fires as possible. I will use the experience of the senior leadership to ensure that this is accomplished. This experience, if used properly, will be our best safeguard. Do not cut corners, do it right or do not do it!

g. Live-fire exercises are the most demanding, dangerous, and rewarding training that we execute. Our live-fire program gives us our cutting edge as Soldiers. We cannot jeopardize this program by haphazard planning, incomplete training, or unsafe procedures. Train realistically, train safely, and when in doubt, err in favor of safety. Our training can be challenging, innovative, realistic, and safe. This is what "Taking Care of Soldiers" is all about. Remember that they are our most precious and valuable resource.

4. POC is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Commander at DSN 485-7290/7511.

5. This policy supersedes the previous policy, is effective immediately, and will be posted on all unit bulletin boards.

6. IRON BRIGADE!

JOHN D. JOHNSON  
COL, IN  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: A