

Standing Operating Procedures  
For  
Georgia Range

1. References. Appendix E.
2. Scope. The purpose of this SOP is to provide guidance for the safe use and conduct of Georgia Range by USARAK units, support units, and other agencies using this range.
3. Scope.

Capability. Georgia Range is classified as a non standard range. The range is designed for multipurpose testing/training and familiarization firing of small-arms, direct-fire weapons. Georgia Range is somewhat narrow, however, it provides approximately 1,200 to 2,000 meters of cleared area that runs east to west, with approximately 400 meters of with north to south. There are four lanes with targets placed at 500, 600, 700, 800, 900, and 1,000 meters. This range is equipped with one Forward Area Arming and Refueling Point (west end) and four helicopter pads (west end). Georgia range is located inside a Controlled Firing Area (CFA). The range is affected by minimum visibility restriction as outlined in the USARAK 350-2 (para 6-7, table 6-1) and requires a minimum of two aircraft spotters.

- a. Weapons Authorized: M16A1/A2, M4, M203, M9, M24, M249, M60, M240, M2, and MK19.
- b. Ammunition Authorized: 5.56, 7.62, 9MM, .50 cal, 40MM TPT, 40 MM TP
4. Applicability: This SOP applies to all military units, organizations, agencies and authorized individuals that use ranges and training area at the Donnelly Training Area, as defined in USARAK Regulation 350-2.
5. Responsibilities:
  - a. Medical Support: Medical support is required for this range. At a minimum you must have a Medic with an Aid Vehicle. MEDEVAC procedures are listed in Annex C.
  - b. Equipment Requirements:

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) USARAK Reg. 350-2       | Issued by Range Control |
| 2) Range SOP               | Issued by Range Control |
| 3) Range Flags             | Issued by Range Control |
| 4) Stapler and Staples     | Using Unit              |
| 5) FM and TM's             | Using Unit              |
| 6) FM Radio or Brick Radio | Using Unit              |
| 7) Hearing Protection      | Using Unit              |
| 8) Binoculars (2EA)        | Using Unit              |

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- c. Personnel Requirements:
  - 1) OIC: SSG or above
  - 2) RSO: SGT or above
  - 3) Safety NCOs as Determined by OIC
  - 4) Medic and designated Aid Vehicle Driver
  - 5) Ammunition NCO
  - 6) Radio Operator
  - 7) Road Guard(s)
  - 8) Air Guard Spotters (2EA)
- d. Personnel Responsibilities:
  - 1) OIC Duties are outlined in ANNEX A of this SOP.
  - 2) Range Safety Officer Duties are outlined in ANNEX B of this SOP.
  - 3) The OIC and RSO must be physically present on the range while in a "Hot Status". If an administrative check-fire has been requested, the OIC and RSO may depart the range. Range control must be notified and a "Hot Status" will not be given until they return.
  - 4) The Ammunition NCO will monitor the issue and turn-in of all ammunition on the range. The OIC/RSO will ensure that there are no unauthorized personnel in or around the temporary ASP.
  - 5) The Radio Operator will monitor the radio at all times. Range control will make periodic communications checks with the unit while in a "Hot Status". Should the unit lose contact with Range Control there will be a mandatory self imposed check fire issued by the OIC until communications are re-established with Range Control. If Range Control loses radio contact with a unit while in a "Hot Status" a range inspector will be dispatched to place the unit into a check fire until communication is re-established.
  - 6) Air Guard Spotters will be equipped with binoculars and a source of communication directly linked to the range OIC. The Air guard spotter will be located in such a way that the individual can observe airspace and call the unit to a check fire upon the approach of all aircraft.
- e. General Instructions:
  - 1) Preparation Phase.
    - i) Use of this range requires special approval of the unit's plan by Range Operations. NLT 30 days prior to use, units will submit an operational plan, safety plan, risk assessment worksheet, and a Surface Danger Zone indicating weapon positions and direction of fire for the planned training.

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- ii) In addition, a target scenario with desired targetry and espousers' times will be submitted at the same time.
- 2) Safety.
  - i) The OIC must establish and brief an emergency Check-fire plan.
  - ii) Participants must be briefed on firing limits and methods to determine firing limits.
  - iii) Prior to requesting a hot time, ensure the USARAK Form 76, Opening/Closing form, issued by range control, has been completed.
  - iv) Should a fire be discovered on the range, immediately report it to range operations. Know the grid location, fire nature, and size. Units are to stop training and assist in fighting the fire except when the fire is located in an impact area.
- 3) Recovery Phase.
  - i) OIC/RSO will ensure all equipment issued by Range Control is returned at the completion of training.
  - ii) Any damages or needed repairs are annotated in the remark section of the closing form.
  - iii) Policing the range is the using unit's responsibility. The entire range area, including all buildings will be policed prior to requesting a clearance team from Range Control.
- f. Special Instructions:
  - 1) Live Fire.
    - i) No weapons will be loaded until the unit has crossed the Line of Departure. Weapons will remain on safe while individuals are maneuvering.
    - ii)
  - 2) Demolitions.
  - 3) Digging.
  - 4) Communications.
- g. Restrictions:
  - 1) Parking of vehicles is only authorized in designated parking areas.
  - 2) A road guard, with communication with the OIC, will be placed at the gate leading to the facility.
  - 3) Seasonal fire hazards may restrict the use of ammunition to include ball, tracer, and pyrotechnics.
  - 4) CS gas will not be used on this facility at any time.
  - 5) Overhead firing of any weapon system is not authorized.

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6. Point of contact for this SOP is the undersigned at 873-1447.

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## ANNEX A

### DUTIES OF THE OFFICER IN CHARGE (OIC)

1. Prior to firing, the OIC will ensure that:
  - a. The range or firing position is scheduled for unit use.
  - b. An authorized RSO has been designated.
  - c. Designated RTO and two Aircraft Spotters have been identified.
  - d. The correct Training Facility is occupied.
  - e. A red flag is flying from the flagpole. For night firing, a blinking red light will be used in place of a flag. In addition, the left and right limits of the range will be marked with blinking red lights.
  - f. Communication has been established with range control.
  - g. All equipment that is required by this directive and the Range SOP are present on the range.
  - h. The danger/impact area is clear of all personnel, vehicles and wildlife.
  - i. All personnel have received a briefing on the safe handling of ammunition and explosives.
  - j. Road guards, signs, and/or barriers have been posted, if required.
  - k. An approved surface danger zone (SDZ) overlay has been approved and is present, if applicable.
  - l. Clearance to fire has been granted by Range Control. When requesting clearance to fire, the OIC will provide the necessary information contained on the opening and closing sheet to Range Control. The OIC will ensure that the Fire Desk Operator's initials are noted on this form as a record of clearance to fire.
  - m. All personnel are aware of the following:
    - 1) The identity and location of range cadre, including the OIC, RSO, Safety NCO's, RTO, Air Spotters, Medic, and Aid Vehicle.
    - 2) The requirements to wear authorized hearing protection while on or near the firing line.
    - 3) The firing limits of the facility being used.
    - 4) The correct procedures for marking and reporting duds, if required.
2. During the use of the range, the OIC will ensure that:
  - a. No firing is conducted when the visibility requirements are not met.
  - b. Down range weapons effects are observed to ensure projectiles land within the prescribed range limits.
  - c. Misfires are removed from the weapon only on command of the OIC.

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- d. Weapons are cleared and checked during temporary suspensions of firing.
  - e. Records are maintained on the type of ammunition fired, number of rounds fired and number of duds (to include their approximate location).
  - f. A cease fire is ordered when:
    - 1) Directed by range control.
    - 2) Communications with range control or road guards is lost.
    - 3) A malfunction of a weapon or ammunition occurs. The OIC/RSO will initiate a check-fire, notify range control, and ensure nothing is disturbed until the investigation is completed and range control lifts the check-fire.
    - 4) A safety violation, accident or incident occurs.
    - 5) A fire is started
    - 6) Wildlife is discovered on the range.
    - 7) Rounds land or detonate outside the approved safety limits for the range.
    - 8) Either the OIC or RSO leaves the range.
3. After training is completed, the OIC will ensure that:
- a. All weapons are cleared of ammunition before departing the firing line.
  - b. All ammunition and/or explosives are removed from personnel before departing the range/training area.
  - c. Ammunition, simulators, explosives, and pyrotechnics are not abandoned, buried, or otherwise disposed of in an unauthorized manner.
  - d. All expended brass is collected for turn-in to the ASP.
  - e. The range/training area is policed.
  - f. All items in section two of the opening and closing procedures are completed.

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## ANNEX B

### **DUTIES OF THE RANGE SAFETY OFFICER (RSO)**

1. The RSO is responsible to the OIC and the commander for the safe operation of the range and will have no other duties.
2. The RSO must be thoroughly familiar with applicable portions of AR 385-63, USARAK Reg. 350-2, this directive, and the appropriate FM's and TM's pertinent to the firing and weapon systems being used.
3. The RSO and the Safety Cadre must be actively alert to:
  - a. Personnel movement on and around the firing line or gun line.
  - b. Vehicle and personnel movement on and around the range or firing points.
  - c. Alignment and handling of weapons on and around the firing point.
  - d. Handling of ammunition.
  - e. Clearance of weapons.
  - f. Control of smoking areas.
  - g. Control batteries, filters, and adapters for laser devices.
  - h. Placement and control of guards, barriers, and signs as required.
  - i. Observation of downrange area for unauthorized personnel, vehicles, and wildlife.
  - j. Prevention of cross lane firing or firing at other than authorized targets.
  - k. Aircraft entering the range airspace.

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**ANNEX C**

**MEDAVAC SUPPORT**

1. In the event of serious injury or illness where time may be a factor in saving life, limb, or sight, or to prevent unnecessary suffering, areomedical evacuation can be used. The following procedures will be followed:
  - a. Request MEDAVAC from range Control, FM 38.30 (primary), 39.05 (alternate), or by telephone 873-4714, or 873-4715.
  - b. If unable to contact range control, contact MEDAVAC directly on FM Freq. 40.50.
  - c. The requesting units will provide the following information:
    - Line 1 - Location of pickup site (grid if possible).
    - Line 2 - Radio Freq. Call Sign and suffix.
    - Line 3 - Number of patients, by precedence.
    - Line 4 – Special equipment required.
    - Line 5 – Number of patients by type, (litter or ambulance).
    - Line 6 – Number and type of wounds.
    - Line 7 – Methods of marking site.
    - Line 8 – Patients nationality and status, military or civilian.
    - Line 9 – Terrain description.
2. NOTE: If the information for lines 6 thru 9 are not immediately available, lines 1 thru 5 should be transmitted first so the MEDAVAC unit is able to begin its mission. When the complete MEDAVAC request is transmitted and received, the requestor will monitor the frequency specified in line 2 and wait for additional instructions or contact the MEDAVAC helicopter.

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**ANNEX D**

**TROOP BRIEFING**

1. Troop Briefing: The OIC or RSO will brief all soldiers on the following items prior to requesting a hot status from range control. This is a general list and does not preclude the unit from emphasizing other areas of concern.
  - a. Movement on the range.
  - b. Weapons/ammo malfunction.
  - c. Safe handling of weapons/ammo.
  - d. Duds (reporting and marking).
  - e. Conduct while on the firing line.
  - f. Hearing conservation.
  - g. Firing limits and rounds observed out of approved firing limits.
  - h. Personnel, vehicles, or air craft downrange.
  - i. Range fires.
  - j. Medical emergency procedures.

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**ANNEX E**

**REFERENCES**

1. AR 385-63, Range Safety
2. DA Pam 385-63, Range Safety
3. USARAK Regulation 350-2, Training
4. Memorandum
5. FM
6. FM
7. FM
8. FM
9. FM

USARAK Regulation 350-2, Training, 15 July 2002

DA PAM 385-63, Range Safety, 10 April 2003

Memorandum USARAK APVR-RPTM (385-63), 27 September 2002, subject: Safety and Certification Requirements during Training/Live Fire Exercises (change1)

The following Field Manuals (FM): 3-22.9, 3-22.31, 3-22.68, 3-23.30, 23-23, 23-27, 23-65, and 23-90.