

Standard Operating Procedures
for the Hand Grenade Familiarization Range
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

1. References: DA PAM 385-63, USARAK Reg. 350-2, FM 3-23.30, and this SOP.
2. Purpose: The purpose of this SOP is to provide guidance for the proper and safe conduct of the Hand Grenade Familiarization Range by all authorized users.
3. Scope:
 - a. Capability: The Hand Grenade Familiarization Range consists of three throwing bays, Control Tower and Ready Walls with observation windows. This range provides the soldier the opportunity to throw a live fragmentation hand grenade.
 - b. Weapons Authorized: M67 Fragmentation Grenade
 - c. Ammunition Authorized: M67 Fragmentation Grenade
4. Applicability: This SOP applies to all authorized range users.
5. Responsibilities:
 - a. Medical Support: Medical support for this range, when used for its intended purpose, is a Level III, IAW USARAK 350-2. Level II requires One military occupational specialty (MOS)-qualified medic (68W) or equivalent (EMT level 2 or higher), with a fully stocked aid bag, one field litter ambulance (FLA) or equivalent (e.g. ambulance, SAR aircraft) with at least two rigid litters, one back board and C-collar, and one dedicated driver. This level is required to support activities and events with a medium to high risk of injury.
 - b. Equipment Requirements:

Dedicated Aid Vehicle	Using Unit
USARAK Reg. 350-2	Issued at Range Control
Range SOP	Issued at Range Control
Range Flag	Issued at the Range
PA System	Issued at Range Control
Applicable FM's and TM's	Using Unit
FM Radio or ALMR	Using Unit
Hearing Protection	Using Unit
Eye Protection	Using Unit
Flak Vest	Using Unit
Rakes	Issued at the Range

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c. Personnel Requirements:

- 1) OIC: SFC or above
- 2) RSO: SSG or above
- 3) Assistant Range Safety Officer's (ARSO's) rank determined by OIC/Battalion Commander. One each ARSO per throwing bay.
- 4) Road guard with communications to Control Tower on the range
- 5) Medic with an Aid Vehicle
- 6) Ammunition NCO
- 7) Radio Operator for communications with Range Control
- 8) Dedicated driver for the Aid Vehicle
- 9) Tower Operator

d. Personnel Responsibilities:

- 1) Officers in Charge Duties are outlined in ANNEX A of this SOP.
 - (1) The OIC will remain in the Tower to best observe the range.
- 2) Range Safety Officer duties are outlined in ANNEX B of this SOP.
 - (1) The RSO will remain in the vicinity of the Tower to control throwing order movements.
- 3) Assistant Safety Officer's will control personnel within their Bay and coordinate with the Tower to ensure safe range operation.
- 4) 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 of their departure and a "Hot Status" will not be given until they return to the range. The OIC and RSO will not be an active participant in the training taking place.
- 5) 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. Grenades are only issued to those soldiers who are next in line to go to the throwing bay. (See ANNEX G, Ammunition Transfer Point)
- 6) Radio Operator will monitor the radio at all times and will make 60-minute communication checks with range control while in a "Hot Status". Should there be a loss of communication between range control and the unit, a check-fire will be issued by the OIC until communication can be re-established.
- 7) A Road Guard will be located where the road to the Hand Grenade Range turns off from the Range Road. There is a gate at this location and will be closed and manned prior to going "Hot" on the range. No personnel will be permitted entrance while the range is hot.

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e. General Instructions:

1) Preparation Phase:

- a) Prior to requesting a hot time ensure the Range Opening/Closing Memorandum issued by range control has been filled out.
- b) During winter months the using unit will initiate coordination with range control to ensure that the target area is cleared of snow down to the soil surface.
- c) It is recommended that the using unit inform EOD prior to utilizing this range, so that they are aware of an activity they may have to respond to.

2) Safety:

- a) The OIC must brief all users of the range on general safety including an emergency check-fire plan. (See ANNEX D, Troop Briefing)
- b) All negligent discharges will be immediately reported to range control.
- c) Ground medical evacuation is probably the quickest manner to get soldiers to Bassett Army Hospital. Units should consider this during their range planning and risk mitigation phase.

3) Execution Phase:

- a) If a fire is observed on the range, the OIC/RSO will put the range in check-fire and immediately notify range control. The unit will be prepared to attempt to suppress the fire only at the direction of range control and only if the fire is less than 100 square feet.
- b) Prior to throwing live hand grenades on this range, soldiers must demonstrate their abilities by correctly throwing a minimum of two practice grenades on the Qualification Course.
- c) The primary purpose of the Tower is to monitor the throw phase and count grenade explosions for the purposes of grenade accountability and duds.
- d) An ARSO will be assigned to Bays 1 to 3. Bays are counted, looking from the tower towards the Bays (south), from left to right.
- e) The Ammunition Transfer Point (ASP) for the issue of live fragmentation hand grenades will be located directly behind the east observation wall. No other activities will take place behind the east wall. Soldiers waiting to throw will assemble behind the west wall. When told to do so, the new order will file past the ASP, receive their grenades and proceed to their assigned throwing bay.
- f) Throwing orders will consist of three, qualified soldiers. The Ammunition NCO will issue these soldiers no more than two (2) grenades each. The Ammunition NCO will then direct each thrower to a specific throwing bay.
- g) Upon arrival at the correct throwing bay, the thrower will identify his throwing arm to the ARSO. The ARSO will specify the correct bay position based on the throwing arm.
- h) The Tower, after receiving a ready signal from Bay 1, will command "Bay 1 Throw". The Tower then moves to Bay 2, and so on.
- i) Personnel in throwing bays either awaiting orders to throw, or having thrown

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their grenade, will remain below the height of the throwing bay wall. The Tower will ensure this occurs prior to issuing a "Throw" command to another bay.

- j) Grenades that fail to function will not be approached except by EOD personnel. Soldiers located in the same bay with an unexploded grenade will remain in behind the throwing bay wall for a minimum of five minutes after throwing the dud. The Tower will immediately notify Range Control to arrange for EOD support. After the waiting period, the ARSO and thrower will return to behind the Ready Wall. After the soldiers return, the other two bays may continue to throw until training is completed, or the EOD team arrives. Routing of the next throwing orders from the Ready Wall to the throwing bays should be so as to minimize the possible exposure of the unexploded grenade detonating. One (1) dud in a bay shuts that bay down until cleared by EOD personnel.
- 4) Recovery Phase:
 - a) OIC/RSO will ensure all equipment issued by range control is returned at the completion of training.
 - b) Any damages or needed repairs are annotated in the remark section of the closing form.
 - c) Policing of the range is the using unit's responsibility. The entire range area, including all utilized buildings, will be policed prior to requesting a clearance team from range control. In addition, the area in front of the throwing bays will be raked to a smooth finish after the completion of training.
- f. Special Instructions:
 - 1) Limited Visibility:
 - a) The using unit must be able to clearly see the down range area, while in a Hot status.
- g. Restrictions:
 - 1) All personnel utilizing the range will be located in the observation bay or to the north of the manned gate. The road guard will be located at this gate to prevent any personnel moving downrange when the range is active.
 - 2) The OIC/RSO will control the movement of personnel between the observation bay and the staging area. At no time will any individual be allowed to move between the two while there are throwers in the Throwing Bays.
 - 3) Parking of tactical vehicles is only authorized in designated parking areas. No Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs) are authorized on this range. Do not drive equipment so close to road and parking area shoulders so as to cause damage or shoulder erosion. Doing so will result in the customer unit rebuilding shoulders manually prior to range clearance.
 - 4) Range Control personnel will remain and emplace aiming points within each bay. Any deviation to the throwing at these established aiming points will be discussed and coordinated with Range Control prior to range usage.
 - 5) Safety clips on the grenades will not be removed until immediately before the safety pin is removed. Once the pin is pulled, the grenade will be thrown.
 - 6) No personnel will be on the range berms at any time. Grenades must be thrown down

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range and an effort must be made to keep the grenade centered in the impact area.
Grenades will not be rolled over the edge of the throwing bay for any reason.

7) M61 AND M67 grenades are class 1.1f and require an armed guard while on the small arms complex.

6. Point of contact for this memorandum is the undersigned, 353-1242.

GREGORY S. SWALLOWS
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ANNEX A

DUTIES OF THE OFFICER IN CHARGE (OIC)

1. The OIC is overall responsible for the safe operation of the range and will have no other duties, and will not be a participant in the training.
2. Prior to firing, the OIC will ensure that:
 - a. The range or firing position is scheduled for unit use.
 - b. An authorized Range Safety Officer (RSO) has been designated.
 - c. Designated RTO and Aircraft Spotter.
 - 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. All personnel are aware of the following:
 - (1) The identity and location of range cadre, including the OIC, RSO, Safety NCO's, RTO, Air Spotter, Medic, and Aid Vehicle.

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- (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.
- m. 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 Range Controls FDO (Firing Desk Operator) initials are noted on this form as a record of clearance to fire.
3. 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 rehearsed and weapons are cleared safely.
 - 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.

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- (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.
 - (9) The correct ammunition is utilized during periods of elevated Fire Weather.
4. 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 the opening and closing sheet 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, and will not be a participant in the training.
2. The RSO must be thoroughly familiar with applicable portions of DA PAM 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

MEDEVAC SUPPORT

1. In the event of serious injury or illness where time may be a factor in saving a life, limb, sight, or to prevent unnecessary suffering, areomedical evacuation can be used. The following procedures will be followed:
 - a. Request MEDAVAC from range control, FM 38.300 (primary) or by telephone 353-1266.
 - b. If unable to contact range control, contact MEDAVAC directly on FM Freq. 40.500.
 - 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 of the range and rounds observed out of approved firing limits.
 - h. Personnel, vehicles, or air craft downrange.
 - i. Range fires.
 - j. Medical emergency procedures.
 - k. Latrine and warm up facility locations.

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ANNEX E

AIRCRAFT SPOTTER PROCEDURES

1. Whenever firing is conducted within a Controlled Firing Area (CFA), Department of the Army Regulations requires that the unit conducting the training have dedicated personnel to look for aircraft entering the hazardous area. A minimum of one aircraft spotter is required.
2. Aircraft spotters cannot be assigned any other responsibilities other than observing for non-participating aircraft entering the immediate hazardous (impact) area for artillery or surface danger zone for small arms fire and for 5 mile in any direction from hazardous area.
3. Aircraft spotters will have the means to communication between themselves and the OIC or RSO to place the unit at a check-fire should aircraft enter the hazardous area. If possible, obtain the tail number, description and relay this information to Range Control. Units cannot go back to a hot status until the aircraft spotters have confirmed to the OIC/RSO that the aircraft has exited the hazardous area.
4. Aircraft Spotters need to be familiar with the effects of the range and what impacts it has on non-participating aircraft. Location, flight path and altitude of the aircraft will dictate if a check fire is necessary.

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ANNEX F

AMMUNITION TRANSFER POINTS

1. The Ammunition Transfer Points (ATP) are to be utilized solely for the purpose of breaking down and issuing ammunition to soldiers while actively using the range. It is not to be used for any other purpose.
2. The following conditions must be met, by the using unit, while occupying the ATP:
 - a. The ammunition must be guarded at all times.
 - b. There will be an access roster identifying the personnel authorized entrance to the ATP.
 - c. Two fire extinguishers will be on site whenever ammunition is present.
 - d. When ammunition is present the appropriate fire symbol will be placed on the outside of the ATP.
 - e. No food or drink will be allowed inside the ATP.
3. Class 1.1 and 1.2 ammunition will not be handled or stored in the ATP. A field ASP must be established outside of the ATP. In addition an armed guard must be present when using these types of ammunition.
4. In case of a lighting storm all personnel will evacuate the ATP at a distance no less than 100 feet.
5. Any damage caused to the ATP will be reported to Range Control immediately.
6. Failure to follow these requirements may result in the units training being halted until deficiencies have been corrected.