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HEADQUARTERS, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND FORT CARSON
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FORT CARSON, COLORADO 80913

AFYB-CG

08 December 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Policy Letter #10: Live Fire Training – 4ID and Fort Carson

1. General.

a. This policy defines the expectations, standards, responsibilities, and procedures for live fire exercises (LFX) and explosives training to ensure realistic and safely executed training. Importantly, the absence of accidents does not mean we are safe.

b. Live fire training is the culminating step in our combined arms training strategies. These events apply prudent risk and stress to build true confidence in formations. As such, they remain a top priority for resourcing and supervision by leaders across all echelons. Commanders will strictly adhere to live fire certification guidelines.

c. Commanders will ensure that live fire scenarios are realistic. Units will remain in a tactical stance throughout the exercise, including the use of tactical communication platforms to relay instructions. There will be no administrative vehicles, tents, or conspicuous ammunition on the range that require concealment – at a minimum, separate by distance, the range support area from the tactical training area.

d. Eliminate the “white hat/range paddle” syndrome on LFXs. For example, do not use separate safety NCOs to clear weapons. Safeties will always be in the uniform of those conducting the training with no distinguishing markings. Safety is the responsibility of the participating chain of command.

e. Units will make every effort to incorporate the supporting fires that would normally be available at that level of command (i.e., platoon leaders controlling M240, AT weapons, and mortars during a squad-level LFX; platoon leaders or company Commanders controlling artillery or attack aviation during platoon or company LFX).

2. Range Safety.

a. Safety requirements in training are similar to those in combat. Leaders mitigate risk-to-force and risk-to-mission, and they must anticipate and remain focused during the planning and execution of each LFX. Unit leaders will consider the situation, terrain, or experience level of the Soldiers and/or leaders involved when identifying hazards and applying controls.

b. Commanders will prepare a deliberate risk assessment worksheet (DRAW) for all training IAW Fort Carson Regulation 385-63. Leaders will understand and adhere to

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installation range regulations, safety measures, unit policies and standards, and conduct range safety briefs using the approved DRAW. Leaders will address additional control measures for LFXs transitions between Day/Night iterations due to the significant change of conditions. Commanders may approve risk IAW the below matrix:

Level of Risk	EXTREMELY HIGH	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
Approval Authority	DIV CG	BDE CDR	BN CDR	C/T/B CDR

c. Uniform. The 4ID Green Book (Standards) provides a default baseline for tactical uniforms and personal protective equipment (PPE). Battalion Commanders may modify the uniform as part of their DRAW.

d. Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT). Prior to the live fire, leaders will conduct a TEWT with the appropriate level of leadership, Range OIC and Range Safety Officer to review the live fire concept, target placement, SDZs, indirect fire plan and targets, Observer/Controller plan, safety procedures and ensure adherence to all unit and installation SOPs. Commanders may execute this TEWT in conjunction with the range scenario certification or as an independent event. *A TEWT conducted within 24 hours prior to blank fire validation satisfies any dry fire requirement.*

3. Marksmanship and Maneuver Live Fire Training.

a. Static Ranges.

(1) All Static Ranges will comply with Fort Carson Regulation 385-63 and the Range SOP found on RFMSS.

(2) Urban Rifle Marksmanship (URM). Units will conduct URM familiarization and qualification IAW TC 3-20.40, Appendix H, with a range concept approved by Range Operations prior to execution.

(3) Stress Fires. C/T/B CDRs will conduct a TEWT with SQD and PLT leadership to validate stress fire scenarios. Stress fire scenarios will not contain any flanking movement. *Blank fire iterations are only required if the stress shoot employs terrain where participating Soldiers are visually blocked/obscured from each other or the leader controlling the movement.* Buddy Team and Fire Team LFXs are stress fires, as these echelons do not maneuver. All stress fires will have a certified platoon leader or platoon sergeant on site during training.

b. Maneuver Ranges.

(1) Qualification requirements. All Soldiers must qualify on the weapon system they will fire during the live fire within six (6) months of a live fire exercise. This includes assistant gunners of crew-served weapons. For participating vehicular platforms, all crews must be properly licensed and be current on gunnery qualification (within 12 months).

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(a) Soldiers must qualify on the URM tables defined in TC 3-20.40, Appendix H, within 60 days of participating in CQM/CQC live fire training. Brigade Commanders may extend this to 90 days prior to the training, and the Division CG may extend it to six (6) months prior to the training.

(b) In accordance with TC 3-20.0, brigade Commanders for units assigned to prepare-to-deploy orders (PTDO) may validate a 6-month extension to the qualification duration for all individual weapons and combat platforms. *The Division CG must approve LFX participation for any individual or crew operating on any such extension.*

(2) LFX Planning and Preparation. Units will submit a range concept for approval through Fort Carson Range Operations. At a minimum, the range concept will include the following: concept sketch and scheme of maneuver, target locations, surface danger zone overlays, maneuver boxes, minimum safe distances for all explosives, and a DRAW. After initial concept approval, any changes to target arrays or maneuver boxes must receive both the Battalion Commander's and Range Operations' approval.

4. Leader Certification, Unit Certification, Unit Validation.

a. Leader Certification. As the certifying authority, Commanders must understand Army Regulations, unit and installation policies, and apply them appropriately. Each echelon of command is responsible for formally certifying select subordinate cohorts on regulation, policy, and practice associated with live fire training. Commanders will re-certify leaders annually.

(1) The Division CG (delegable to the DCO-M) will certify brigade and battalion-level Commanders. All leader certification programs will include a knowledge exam on relevant doctrine / policies and a practical exercise. The Division G3 will publish division-level certification standards and administer the certification program. Subordinate Commanders will develop nested programs to certify their cohorts.

(2) Brigade Commanders will certify Majors, Captains, Sergeants Major, and C/T/B First Sergeants.

(3) Battalion Commanders will certify Lieutenants and Platoon Sergeants.

(4) C/T/B Commanders will certify Squad and Section Leaders.

(5) Range Operations OIC/RSO certification is a requirement for all personnel involved in live fire exercises. It is not a substitute for unit led LFX academics and leader certification.

b. Unit Certification. Commanders will conduct a TEWT (range walk) in the range area with appropriate leaders to certify the live fire scenario, target location, SDZs, and ensure adherence to all unit and installation SOPs.

(1) Certification must cover all field expedient and non-standard ordnance.

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(2) For events using pre-approved scenarios on “roll-on / roll-off” ranges, Commanders must conduct the initial range walk with Range Operations NLT T-3.

(3) For events employing custom scenarios or those requiring deviations to surface danger zones (SDZs) or minimum safe distances (MSDs), Commanders must conduct the initial range walk with Range Operations NLT T-6. This allows appropriate time for Range Operations to adjust the range, and also allows Commanders sufficient time to submit SDZ/MSD deviation to the Division G3 for Commanding General approval NLT 30-day prior to the event.

(4) Commanders will certify units IAW the following table:

Echelon	Brigade	Battalion	Company	Platoon	Squad/Section	Team
Certification Authority	DIV CG	DIV CG	BDE CDR	BN CDR	BN CDR <i>delegable to a FG officer</i>	C/T/B CDR

c. Validation. As the validating authority, leaders serve as an observer of a competent, confident, and safe blank fire exercise conducted prior to the execution of a live fire exercise. If a unit demonstrates sufficient proficiency and compliance with controls, the validating leader may authorize the unit to conduct a live fire iteration.

(1) Brigade Commanders will validate company-level LFX and CALFEX. This is not delegable.

(2) Battalion Commanders will validate platoon-level LFX and CALFEX. This is not delegable.

(3) C/T/B Commanders will validate squad and section-level LFX. First Sergeants may validate iterations provided the commander is physically on the range.

5. Maneuver Live Fire Execution

a. Blank Fire. All Soldiers must participate in a blank fire exercise (BFX) rehearsal before participating in live fires – day and night. Units must satisfactorily complete a day live fire iteration prior to executing a night live fire.

(1) Units will conduct live fire exercises within 24 hours of blank-fire validation. *Brigade Commanders may extend this time separation up to 48 hours.*

(2) Commanders may substitute Ultimate Training Munition (UTM) in lieu of blanks during validation iterations. *If units employ force-on-force with UTM, opposing force (OPFOR) role players must accurately reflect the approved target array presented in the live fire scenario.*

(3) Battalion Commanders may authorize units to conduct BFX rehearsals on a

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separate lane with similar terrain that accurately portrays the geometry relative to maneuver boxes, target arrays, and live fire control measures.

b. Live Fire Execution.

(1) *OIC/Safety officer.* Commanders will assign an Officer in Charge (OIC) and Range Safety Officer (RSO) for all maneuver live fire exercises. OICs and RSOs must be certified through Fort Carson Range Operations. The RSO must be a SSG or higher. The RSO will not serve as an evaluator, trainer, or participant in the live fire exercise. The RSO's only duty is monitoring adherence to safety procedures. If a transfer of the RSO duties is required during a live-fire exercise, the OIC and incoming RSO will conduct a joint review of the exercise scenario and a walk-through rehearsal. The RSO will personally check targetry before the start of every iteration. Ranges that integrate combined arms systems require additional RSOs as indicated below:

(a) Mortars: MLC-Qualified 11C30 or above.

(b) Artillery: 13A Company or Battalion Fire Support Officer (FSO) or 13F30 Fire Support Non-Commissioned Officer (FSNCO).

(c) Close Air Support (CAS): Air Liaison Officer (ALO) or Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) when United States Air Force (USAF) aircraft are involved.

(d) Army Attack Aviation (AAA) and AC-130s: JFO-qualified FSO or FSNCO or a representative of the rotary wing AAA unit or AC-130 unit.

(2) *Safety Range Walk.* Units will conduct a range walk to verify safety, compliance with range restrictions, and tactical realism NLT 14 days prior to execution.

(3) *Medical Coverage and Rehearsals.* Medics and evacuation vehicles will be present during all maneuver live fires IAW installation range safety regulations. Under the supervision of the Range OIC, medics will conduct a MEDEVAC rehearsal, including a full route reconnaissance to the nearest trauma care center and established ambulance exchange points (AXPs), prior to the start of maneuver live fire training.

(4) *Safety Briefings.* All BFX and LFXs will begin with a detailed safety briefing to all participants. The safety brief will include target array, ammunition handling, accountability plan, duties and responsibilities of Soldiers, medical capabilities, location of medical personnel and CASEVAC vehicles, CASEVAC plan, and key risks and controls defined in the DRAW.

(5) *Mounted Platform Integration.* During mounted maneuver LFXs, the Brigade or Battalion Commander (dependent on echelon executing the LFX) will validate the mounted platform maneuver lanes and firing positions to ensure safe execution of simultaneous mounted and dismounted maneuver. All non-stabilized mounted weapon systems require a traverse and elevation (T&E) pintle. Unit Master Gunners will advise and assist Commanders in integrating platforms in maneuver LFXs.

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c. Shoot House Live Fire. Battalion Commanders will review/approve all shoot house live fire concepts and schemes of maneuver and are the certifying authority for all multi-team/multi-room live fires. The C/T/B CDR must certify all single-team shoot house live fires and be present for multi-team/multi-room live fires.

(1) Units will plan and conduct Shoot House LFXs IAW TC 90-1 Training for Urban Operations, Fort Carson Regulation 385-63, and the Range SOP.

(2) Range concept will specify rooms used, target placement, locations of where non-lethal grenades (DODICs GG18 and GG19) will be used, and the sequence of training in the shoot house.

(3) After each iteration, the RSO will personally conduct a walkthrough of the shoot house and confirm the range support detail emplaced targets in the correct and validated position/location for the next iteration.

d. Artillery and Mortar Live Fire. Leaders will reference the 4ID DIVARTY Redbook and TC 3-09.8 for Field Artillery and Mortar Firing.

(1) *Overhead Fire*. Overhead mortar fires are never authorized. Overhead fire for artillery is authorized on Fort Carson with the following restrictions:

(a) Dismounted troops are located 750m or greater in front of the firing position.

(b) Overhead fire with rocket assisted projectiles (RAP) is authorized provided the maneuvering unit maintains buffers IAW DA PAM 385-63, Figure 10-1.

(c) Overhead AAA is authorized provided the MAX ORD at the attack by fire position is greater than 1000 feet above the maximum altitude of the aircraft. When employed, a dry iteration must be conducted before a LFX. Supporting pilots must have fire support graphics and firing unit location on hand before execution.

(2) *Experimental Munitions*. Experimental munitions are not authorized unless cleared through a DA ammunition information notice (AIN).

(3) *Incendiary Munitions*. Range Operations must verify approval prior to firing incendiary munitions.

(4) *CALFEX Considerations*. The certifying commander will ensure the following conditions are met when incorporating indirect fires into a CALFEX:

(a) The DIVARTY Commander and Field Artillery (FA) Battalion Commanders will ensure that FA leaders at echelon are certified IAW the 4ID RED BOOK with a safety test on record within six months of participating in a LFX.

(b) FA Battalion Commanders will validate that firing units and fire supporters are trained in danger close procedures before executing live danger close fire missions.

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(c) Fire support graphics and overlays (analog and digital), the target list worksheet, and maneuver control graphics must be on hand at all Company/PLT headquarters, firing unit Fire Direction Center (FDC), and observation points.

(d) Mortars must register prior to supporting any LFX. FA Cannons must either register or achieve the five requirements for accurate fire prior to supporting any CALFEX.

(e) Fire supporters executing CALFEXs must have the means to acquire CAT 1 target grids. All equipment used will be operational and can track projectiles.

6. Explosives Training.

a. Units will publish a training plan for all explosives training and identify and mitigate risk on a DRAW. The training plan will specify all charges, the net explosive weight (NEW), minimum Safe Distances (MSDs), and specify initiation system and location of Soldiers during detonation.

b. During explosive live-fire exercises, Engineer SME's will be on the range to support and validate and the use of explosives.

c. EOD Coverage. Units must request EOD support 90 days in advance for preplanned disposal (i.e. MICLIC rocket motors, deliberate range clearance, etc.). Upon discovery of a unexploded ordnance (UXO), Range OICs will immediately cordon the area with markers and call the Fort Carson EOD Response Team.

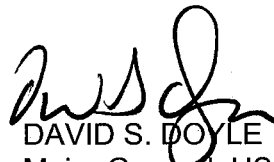
d. Mine Clearing Line Charge (MICLIC) rockets require disposal after use, any CL V needed for this disposal must be forecasted and drawn by the training unit. *The training unit will provide the CL V used in disposal.*

7. Ammunition. Soldiers will follow handling and storage procedures and requirements for demolitions training IAW DA PAM 385-64, Fort Carson Regulation 385-63. Soldiers will also adhere to the MSD for charges defined in FM 3-34.

8. The point of contact for this policy is the Division ACoS G3 at 719-503-0300.

3 Encls

1. References List
2. Range Safety Deviations
3. 4ID Live Fire Leader Certification Program


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Commanding