



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION (LI) AND FORT DRUM
BLDG P10000, 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION DRIVE
FORT DRUM, NY 13602-5000

AFDR-CG

1 May 2019

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Policy Memorandum 8, Certification and Conduct of Maneuver Live Fire Exercises (LFXs)

1. References.

- a. Department of the Army Pamphlet 385-63, Range Safety, 16 APR 14.
- b. Fort Drum Regulation 350-4, Post Range Regulation, 01 Mar 07.
- c. 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) Live Fire Exercise Certification Workbook, 17 Jan 12.
- d. Fort Drum Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, and Security (DPTMS) memorandum: Range Safety Deviation to Modify Firing Procedures for All Live Fire Exercises. 14 JAN 15.
- e. Fort Drum Pamphlet 600-5, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and Fort Drum Standards (Blue Book), AUG 19.
- f. DA PAM 350-38, Standards in Weapons Training, Appendix B, Training Aids, Devices, Simulators, and Simulations (TADSS), FY 19.

2. This policy applies to 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) and all units stationed at Fort Drum, as well as all units and agencies training on Fort Drum.

3. Purpose. The ability to aggressively and safely conduct live fire training in all conditions is directly related to Soldier confidence and mission readiness. LFXs are an integral component of deliberate and rigorous training programs; creating opportunities for leaders to develop expertise in creating desired weapons effects with organic and external enablers. Thorough planning and LFX leader certification programs are critical to ensuring safe, challenging, and productive training outcomes, replicating realistic tactical battlefield scenarios that develop leader and soldier readiness.

4. Definitions.

- a. Static Ranges feature a fixed firing line and do not involve maneuver, such as qualification ranges, marksmanship ranges, demolition areas, indirect firing points, and

individual soldier/ firer course of fire, Linear Individual/Team shooting drills that require Soldiers to move in a linear manner or modest fire and movement exercises.

b. Maneuver LFXs involve fire and maneuver with risk of soldiers encroaching on weapons SDZs during the conduct of the training exercise. Maneuver LFXs include both mounted and dismounted maneuver exercises, non-standard unit derived scenarios at available training areas and ranges, and Combined Arms Live Fire Exercises (CALFEXs).

c. LFX Terms of Reference:

1) Platoon LFX: A collective live fire event that focuses on training the Platoons ability to synchronize weapons organic and limited non-organic effects in the conduct of a MET. The Company Commander is the primary trainer with oversight by the Battalion Commander.

2) CALFEX: Company/Battalion level live fire events involve all organic assets and a minimum of three external enablers: field artillery, attack aviation, and combat engineers. They are designed to demonstrate proficiency of the Commander with all participating organizations and elements to synchronize weapons effects. Primary trainer is the Battalion Commander with oversight of the BDE Commander.

3) FSCX: The Fire Support Coordination Exercise (FSCX), is a leader focused training event generally conducted without troops using live or virtual integration of fire support and external assets into maneuver plans. Its purpose is to maximize battlefield effects while managing risk estimate distances by indirect fire, rotary wing, and fixed wing system.

4) Range Recon: Provides the approving authority the opportunity to certify the range concept to ensure the exercise will safely meet stated training outcomes. It is the master trainer's opportunity to ensure the training scenario, target scheme and supporting activities induce desired soldier and leader reactions / decisions. See enclosure 1 (LFX Scenario Certification, and Command Presence Matrix) for levels of approval authorities. Exceptions approved in writing by the next higher certification authority (Brigade Commander must have DCG-O approval for O-5 to certify a company).

5) Leader Tactical Exercise Without Troops (TEWT): The Leader TEWT consists of a leader walk through of the live fire scenario on the terrain where the LFX will be conducted to validate readiness to conduct the training event, educate training audience on accomplishing all T&EO tasks, discuss TTPs, validate Safety plans, and analyze weapons effects and target / simulator to replicate effects. Leaders will physically move to each maneuver box and engagement area and at minimum will discuss the following:

- a. Tactical solutions based upon the LFX scheme of maneuver.
- b. Approved scheme(s) of maneuver for all elements participating in the LFX.
- c. Range fans of the approved Surface Danger Zones (SDZs) of all weapon systems used during the LFX.
- d. Ricochet hazards.
- e. Applicable firing and safety restrictions for all munitions.
- f. Fire control measures with emphasis on terrain-based trigger lines and points, and redundant signals to shift or lift fires.

6) Dry iterations: The rehearsal conducted by the unit using the same terrain, under conditions as similar as possible to the live fire scenario terrain. A dry rehearsal is not required as part of the LFX sequence.

7) BFX rehearsal: The certification rehearsal conducted by the unit before a LFX, using the same terrain and targets, under conditions as similar as possible to the live fire scenario, and with all safeties and OCs. Rehearsals conducted on similar terrain do not meet certification requirements for standard LFXs.

8) Night LFX: Units will conduct a DAY blank and live then night blank fire prior to conducting a night LFX using the same scenario and conditions. Units must demonstrate Night marksmanship and marking standards during the night BFX.

9) Cold Hit. A cold hit rehearsal is execution of the mission plan without foreknowledge of terrain, targets, and scenario outside of MDMP and the implementation of information collection assets. To better assess how units will perform in their next live fire in combat, Commanders are encouraged to plan for units to conduct "sight unseen" cold hit blank fire using MILES or Man Marker Rounds (MMRs) against a controlled OPFOR as their first exposure to the range if time allows. Cold hits are always an option for training, but cannot replace LFX progression.

5. LFX Pre-conditions.

a. Qualification requirements. All Soldiers participating must complete weapons day and night qualifications within the last 6 months on the weapons they will employ during the LFX to include optics, lasers, gunlights, protective masks as applicable, and zeroed on the weapon they will actually employ. Assistant mortar, machine gunners, and anti-tank gunners will also be qualified on the weapons systems even if they will not be the primary firer during the LFX. Soldiers will qualify on Close Quarters

Marksmanship or Short Range Marksmanship (CQM or SRM) tables within six months of the LFX when the LFX scenario includes maneuvering in or around buildings.

b. Alternate Qualifications. During deployments or when standard qualification ranges are not available, or to reinforce and enable the manning of key weapons systems in training, the battalion commander may authorize alternate weapons qualifications for LFX participants. Alternate weapons qualification consists of demonstrated proficiency to assemble, disassemble, load, fire, reduce stoppages, unload, and clear; 25 meter "ALT C" qualification for rifles and pistols; 10 meter "paster" tables for SAWs and machine guns; and an expedient field fire using expedient targets on the available range to validate the Soldier's ability to acquire and safely engage targets at longer ranges. The company commander will certify soldiers who use alternate qualification are safe for live fire.

c. Training progression. Commanders will validate all subordinate units are trained in the MET tasks incorporated in the LFX scenario, to include organic and attached enablers. Prior to a squad live fire event commanders will validate Team Live fire proficiency. Prior to a platoon live fire commanders will validate Squad live fire proficiency and so on. Commanders will gage the complexity of the live fire based upon unit proficiency. BLUF: Don't run before you can walk.

d. Enablers. Integrating enablers plays a key role in building proficiency. Proper enabler employment optimizes and synchronizes combat power at each echelon. Enablers train and test individual skills by MOS skill sets (Engineers, Fire Supporters, Medics etc.). Enabler individual training is completed in the supporting unit (e.g. Artillery Battalion will train and certify all 13F). At the platoon level, fully trained enablers will join a unit's training progression. At the platoon level, a forward observer team, a medic, and an engineer squad will join from SOP development through LFX, enhancing the platoon's ability to conduct Walk and Shoots and breaching. At the company level, a fire support team and engineer platoon join to enable live or virtual FSCXs and expand breaching capability.

6. Validation.

a. As with any collective training event, LFXs follow a detailed 8-step training model. For LFXs, commanders must emphasize backbriefs, recons, and rehearsals. During the validation process, the unit leadership executing the LFX and the validation authority validates the LFX by conducting a concept backbrief and recon of the range. LFXs require a two-phase verification consisting of a concept approval and a surface danger zone (SDZ) approval. Leaders will ensure that there is enough time between the validation of the range and the LFX to make any corrections identified during the recon of the range and revalidate the range prior to execution of the LFX.

b. Range validation includes the approval of the concept and the risk management

plan for each collective LFX. The validation authorities for LFXs and CALFEXs are: Battalion Commanders for platoon and lower level LFXs, Brigade Commanders for company LFXs and CALFEXs, and the DCG-O for Battalion LFXs and CALFEXs. Validation process will include a range recon or terrain walk by the validation authority. Validation documents are approved training schedules signed by appropriate commanders, approved risk assessment, and approved LFX concept.

c. Range Operations Branch verifies the SDZ for the entire range, focusing on left and right limits, start and cease fire lines and to ensure regulatory guidance identified in DA PAM 385-63 is adhered to for each live fire event. During the validation recon of the range, the validating authority, accompanied by Range Operations will validate the maneuver plan, target locations, start/cease fire areas and safety control measures are IAW with approved concept.

7. Certification.

a. Leader LFX certification is in addition to Range Officer in Charge (OIC) and Range Safety Officer (RSO) requirements established in DA Pam 385-63 and Fort Drum Regulation 350-4. LFX Certification will be conducted two levels down; Brigade Commanders will certify Company Commanders, Battalion Commanders will certify Platoon Leaders, and Company Commanders will certify Squad Leaders. LFX certification will be conducted for all leaders in the position of Squad Leader through Company Commander and for key personnel involved in the planning and execution of a LFX. These personnel must be recertified annually.

b. Brigade and Battalion Commanders in the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) will establish formal maneuver LFX certification programs within their organizations. Battalion Commanders must document all personnel that they certify and provide a copy of the documentation to Range Control. The certification program will consist of written and practical exercise components. At a minimum, such programs will incorporate three phases

1) PHASE I: Range safety and orientation briefing. Range Operations Branch provides officers and NCOs the Range Officer in Charge/Range Safety Officers administrative range safety briefing. This certification requirement is found in DA Pam 385-63 and Fort Drum Regulation 350-4. Range Operations Branch provides this briefing every Wednesday at 1330hrs in building 4855 on Fort Drum. Fort Polk Range Operations Branch provides this briefing every second and fourth Wednesday at 1330hrs at the Range Operations conference room. Units can also request to receive the briefing as part of a unit training plan by contacting the Range Operations Safety Officer at (315)772-1924 for Fort Drum, or (337) 531-5337 for Fort Polk.

2) PHASE II: Individual study/written exam. Battalion Commanders are responsible for administering a comprehensive written exam that covers at a minimum

the certification, validation, and execution of LFXs. An example LFX certification exam is included in Annex D of the LFX certification workbook. This exam may be tailored to a battalion's specific requirements. The LFX certification workbook is a program start point and serves to augment and support all applicable regulations and SOPs. Company Commanders, IAW the Battalion Commander's guidance, schedule the written exam for their leaders with the Battalion S-3.

3) PHASE III: Battalions conduct hands-on training for exercise planning. In this phase, Platoon Leaders, Company Commanders, and First Sergeants plan maneuver LFXs under the guidance and supervision of the Battalion or Brigade Commander and S-3.

c. Specialty Skills.

1) Engineer squads will be certified by their Engineer Company Commanders prior to supporting LFXs at the platoon or higher levels. The maneuver battalion commander will certify the engineer squads as part of the maneuver platoon that they are attached to during the conduct of maneuver platoon LFXs. Engineer platoons will be certified as platoons by the Battalion Commander of their parent Brigade Engineer Battalion.

2) Field Artillery (13B/F/J/R) individual, section and collective certification and qualification will be executed IAW TC 3-09.8 and the 10th Mountain Division Redbook prior to conducting LFXs. Individual and Section/Team certification and qualification will be certified by the Battery Commander. Platoon certification and qualification will be certified by the FA Battalion Commander. Battery certification and qualification will be certified by the BCT Commander (advised by the DIVARTY Commander). Battalion certification and qualification will be certified by the Division Commander.

3) Aviators will be certified by their Company or Troop commander for Tables VI and IX prior to supporting LFXs and CALFEXs. Crews supporting LFXs must be Table VI qualified. Crews supporting CALFEXs must be Table XI qualified.

8. Range & Scenario Conditions Setting.

a. Observer Controllers (OCs) are trained by the certification authority or through an Observer Controller Training Academy or unit validation program. Validation of OCs is the responsibility of the unit's certification authority.

b. Targets. Use of targets, target exposures, lifters, fixed targets and target operators are critical to the proper conduct of a live fire, the execution of the commander's scheme of maneuver, and setting conditions on the objective. All targets on a live fire range are deliberately controlled. When targets are up, the assumption is that they are shooting at you and conditions are not set to proceed. When targets go

down, assume that the target is destroyed. Avoid repetitive target bobbing as it detracts from target discrimination. Target operators must understand the live fire scenario and expose targets IAW the outlined scenario to maximize effects. Target feed-back and weapons effects simulators are integral to allowing leaders to evaluate achievement of desired effects.

c. Feedback. Leaders have an inherent responsibility to objectively critique each iteration prior to certifying the unit for live fire. Leaders must validate control mechanisms, communications, and Soldier awareness. The range OIC, RSO, OCs, and unit leaders will collaborate during assessments to validate the safety of the unit's scheme of maneuver, assess the unit's understanding of the fire control measures, target placements, and understanding of fire restrictions during live fire rehearsals.

9. Execution. The proper execution of a live fire range starts with planning and Troop Leading Procedures.

a. Troop Leading Procedures. Units will follow the Troop Leading Procedures constructing their scenarios around training objectives while remaining within the constraints of the range operations.

b. Orders. Units issue orders to conduct the live fire IAW the troop leading procedures. Higher headquarters adhere to the 1/3 – 2/3 rule, providing executing units adequate time to properly plan.

c. Rehearsals. Unit Rehearsals can take place in a variety of forms and locations. Dry rehearsals are an extension of TLPs using similar terrain or marked terrain simulating anticipated operational areas.

d. Live Fire. Once certification rehearsals have been approved by the validation authority, units progress to live fire. A LFX should occur within 24 hours of successfully completing the certification rehearsal. LFX execution greater than 24 hours after completing certification rehearsals is automatically a high risk and requires Brigade Commander approval.

1) Range OIC and RSO Requirements. Units conducting LFXs must comply with Fort Drum Regulation 350-4 for Range OICs and RSOs. These personnel must be present at all times during the execution of the LFX or CALFEX. For battalion and higher level LFXs and CALFEXs, the Range OIC must be a field grade officer.

2) Command Presence. Chain of command involvement is inherent to LFX mission success, and chain of command presence is required for the execution of all LFXs and CALFEXs. At a minimum, the Company Commander or First Sergeant must be present for all iterations of squad and team LFXs. For platoon LFXs, the Battalion Commander or designated field grade officer (FGO) or Command Sergeant Major

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(CSM) representative, as approved by the Brigade Commander, must be present. The Brigade Commander or Deputy Commanding Officer (DCO) must be present for company LFXs and CALFEXs. The Brigade Commander can modify the level of command presence up to company level LFXs and CALFEXs. The DCG-O, DCG-S, or 10th MTN DIV (LI) Commanding General will be present for battalion LFXs and CALFEXs.

3) After Action Reviews. When possible, conduct AARs on the live fire objective with respective training and evaluation outlines (T&EOs). Candid and open discussions of actions is required to foster learning and team building. OCs and/or coaches must objectively evaluate and score unit actions to include marksmanship performance (i.e. number of targets hit, number of rounds fired).

10. Train Safely. Training safety requirements are no different than those in combat. Unit commanders may always increase safety restrictions if the situation, terrain, or experience level of the training unit and leaders dictates adjustments. Units must identify and mitigate new risks as conditions on the range change.

a. The LFX is by nature a high-risk operation; therefore, it requires the execution of the formal risk management process. The Risk Management (RM) Process is used to minimize risks of an operation while retaining the essential characteristics required for training value. Risk assessments should include PPE requirements, weather considerations, terrain considerations, etc.

1) RM is a five step-process that includes: Identify Hazards; Assess Hazards; Develop Controls and Make Decisions; Implement Controls; Supervise and Evaluate.

2) During all steps of the RM Process, the following principles must be adhered to: Integrate Risk Management into planning; Accept no unnecessary risks; Make right decisions at the appropriate level of command; Apply the process cyclically and continuously; Do not be risk adverse.

3) Approving authorities for levels of risk are as follows: Extremely High-Division Commander; High-Brigade Commander; Medium-Battalion Commander; Low-Company Commander.

b. The RSO's only duty will be to assist the commander by monitoring the safety of the exercise. The RSO will not be an evaluator.

c. All LFXs require a minimum of one safety or OC per element (maneuver element, indirect fire element, and support element). Maneuver elements conducting demolitions must have a safety or OC in the rank of Staff Sergeant or above that is certified in the

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employment of demolition munitions. Indirect fire elements require a safety or OC for the gun line as well as the FDC if one is employed.

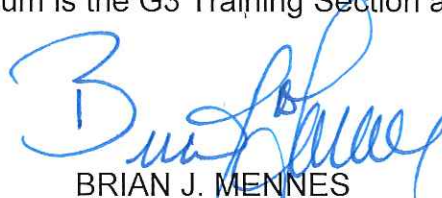
d. Safety is paramount; fratricide in the Division is unacceptable because it is always preventable with risk mitigation, rehearsals, adherence to established MSDs, smart tactics, and effective command and control.

e. All Soldiers, to include firers, safeties, and OCs must receive no less than 5 hours of continuous sleep prior to conducting a LFX. Sleep plans must be addressed in the Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet (DRAW) (DA Form 2977) and enforced during training execution.

f. All soldiers, safeties, and OCs participating in rehearsals and LFX will wear the Tactical Uniform outlined in Fort Drum Pamphlet 600-5 (Blue Book).

g. LFX unit leadership will certify that all weapons have been cleaned following a Short Range Training Ammunition (SRTA) or MMR iteration prior to issuing live ammunition. RSOs will ensure the chain of command rods every weapon after firing SRTA rounds to ensure no rounds or residue remain in the weapon barrels. This is a common malfunction when using SRTA, and will cause the barrel to explode when firing live rounds. After blank fire events, RSO and leaders will ensure blank firing adapters (BFA) have been removed prior to using projectile ammunition. RSO and unit leadership will verify that blank and live ammunition are properly separated and soldiers are inspected prior to live iteration.

11. Point of contact for this memorandum is the G3 Training Section at DSN 772-7584.



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Encls

1. Scenario Validation and Command Presence Matrix 12 JUL 19
2. Fort Drum Range Deviations 28 MAY 19

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