



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND UNITED U.S. ARMY HAWAII
BUILDING 580 KOLEKOLE AVENUE
SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII 96857-6000

APVG-CG

30 March 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: United States Army Hawaii (USARHAW) Policy Letter #24 – Live Fire Exercise (LFX)

1. References:

- a. Army Regulation (AR) 385-63, Range Safety, 30 January 2012.
- b. Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 385-63 (Range Safety), 16 April 2014.
- c. 25th Infantry Division and USAHAW Regulation 350-19, Ranges and Training Areas, 01 August 2016.
- d. Army Technical Publications (ATP) 5-19 (Risk Management), 14 April 2014.
- e. DA PAM 385-30 (Risk Management), 2 December 2014.
- f. Technical Manual (TM) 3-34.82, Explosives and Demolitions, 7 March 2016.
- g. Department of Defense Form 2977, Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet (DRAW)

2. Applicability. This policy applies to all Soldiers of the 25th Infantry Division and USARHAW.

3. Policy.

a. The purpose of this is to establish standards regarding the planning, preparation, and safe execution of live fire exercises (LFXs). Realistic LFXs are essential to combat readiness; training where our Soldiers safely and aggressively conduct fire and maneuver builds confidence and increases lethality across our formation. LFXs will be the culmination of deliberate, progressive training programs utilizing the 8 Step Training Model.

b. Definitions.

(1) Static ranges are defined as training events that have a fixed firing line and do not involve maneuver, such as qualification/marksmanship ranges, demolition areas, and indirect firing points.

(2) LFXs are defined as training events involving fire and maneuver, to include both mounted and dismounted maneuver exercises at fixed range facilities such as the Battle Area Complex (BAX); unit-developed scenarios at training areas and ranges; and Combined Arms Live Fire Exercises (CALFEXs). CALFEXs are LFXs that integrate one or more non-organic combat multipliers into the maneuver unit.

c. Planning Considerations. When planning LFXs, leaders must take the following into consideration:

(1) Current level of proficiency on the tasks to be trained. LFXs are the culmination of a deliberate, gated training progression.

(2) Capabilities of the range in order to maximize the use of available resources.

d. Preparation. Leaders must use the 8 Step Training Model, with an emphasis on the training and certification of leaders. In addition, leaders must verify the resourcing for the LFX.

(1) Plan Validation. For all LFXs, leaders two levels up will validate the plan. Validations will include, at a minimum, OPORDs, graphics and fire control measures, medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) plans, surface danger zones, and minimum safe distances. Dry day and night iterations are validated before going live.

(2) Observer/Controllers (O/Cs). All LFXs require a minimum of one safety or O/C per element (maneuver element, indirect fire element, and support element). Maneuver units conducting demolitions must have a safety or O/C in the rank of Staff Sergeant or above that is certified in the employment of demolition munitions. Each enabler or special weapon team (i.e. snipers, EOD, etc.) operating as separate elements will also have an O/C attached. Aviation O/Cs will be identified for each LFX training iteration, O/Cs will be the Air Mission Commander for the multiple ship training exercise or the senior Pilot in Command for single ship training exercise.

(3) Authorities. As outlined in USARHAW Regulation 350-19, Battalion Commanders will validate all Squad and Platoon LFX Plans. Brigade Commanders will validate Company LFX Plans. The Deputy Commanding General-Operations (DCG-O) will validate Battalion LFX Plans. Commanders who wish to delegate LFX plan

validation to another field grade officer of lower rank or command level must gain approval from their Brigade Commander.

(4) Soldier and Crew Qualifications. Leaders will ensure that all Soldiers and crews participating in a LFX have zeroed and qualified on the weapon (including optics and lasers) within the last six months and familiarized on the weapon within the last three months. For crew served weapons, both gunners and assistant gunners must be qualified. Mortar and artillery crews must be current and certified prior to providing indirect fires in support of a maneuver element. All other enablers providing live fire support (i.e. engineers, aviation, EOD, etc.) must be certified on their weapons systems. For night LFX iterations, all Soldiers must be qualified for night fire. These zero and qualification requirements cannot be waived. Medics and Range OICs/RSOs must possess current certifications.

(5) Terrain Walks. Prior to conducting LFXs, leaders will conduct Tactical Exercises Without Troops (TEWTs) to achieve shared understanding with regards to range layouts and limitations, surface danger zones and minimum safe distances, safety considerations, and the tactical scenario. The commander responsible for validating the LFX plan will determine the audience for the TEWT.

e. Execution.

(1) Train as you fight. Enforcing a tactical mindset throughout the exercise from range occupation, assembly area operations, through all troop leading procedures and execution will reinforce the focus and intensity required to execute LFXs at a professional level. Range scenarios should be written to realistic standards and conducted under conditions which replicate a tactical environment.

(2) All units will conduct a blank fire exercise (BFX) prior to conducting a day LFX in order to validate the range plan and the unit's proficiency. Prior to conducting a night LFX, units will first successfully conduct a day BFX, a day LFX, and a night BFX to validate the safety and communications plans, and the unit's proficiency. Commanders can modify the dry/blank/live progression at their discretion; however, any alternate training progression must be specifically addressed in the DRAW (DD 2297).

(3) BFX iterations will be conducted in as similar conditions as possible to the live fire iteration. For example, the BFX targetry array must mirror the LFX targetry array in order to serve as a true LFX rehearsal. Commanders must evaluate the additional residual risk resulting from changes to conditions between the BFX and LFX. A change in range targetry between the BFX and LFX requires a unit to conduct an additional BFX iteration prior to the LFX iteration. The approval authority for changes to range conditions is the leader (two levels up) that validated the initial plan. Changes in range

conditions that result in additional risk will be approved by the appropriate approval authority IAW AR 385-63 and Para. 3.e.5.d.

(4) Battalion Commanders and Command Sergeants Major will be physically present to certify all platoon level or higher live fires. Battalion Commanders may designate a field grade officer to certify LFXs with the Brigade Commander's approval. Company Commanders or First Sergeants will be physically present to certify all Team and Squad level LFXs. These certifications validate units to progress from blank to live iterations.

(5) Safety. This guidance prescribes the minimum safety standards for conducting LFX training.

(a) LFXs should occur within 24 hours of BFX completion. LFX 24 to 48 hours after BFX completion is High Risk and requires Brigade Commander approval. LFX after 48 hours of BFX completion is Extremely High Risk and requires CG approval.

(b) All LFXs will have a designated OIC and RSO who are certified and meet the installation requirements. The RSO will have no other duties other than monitoring adherence to safety procedures during the exercise. If a transfer of RSO duties is required during a LFX, the OIC and incoming RSO will conduct a joint review of the exercise scenario including a walk-through (mandatory) and rehearsal (if required).

(c) Sleep plans must be addressed in the DRAW (DD 2977) and enforced during training execution.

(d) The approval authority for Extremely High residual risk is the CG, for High is the Brigade Commander, and Moderate is the Battalion Commander.

(e) During LFXs, Soldiers must wear approved body armor, unit-issued ballistic helmets, APEL-approved eye protection, and hearing protection.

(f) Use of demolitions is not permitted during electrical storms. The use of mobile radios is prohibited within 50 meters of electrical firing systems. The minimum safe distances from radio/television stations and transmitter antennae is detailed in FM 3-34.214 (Explosives and Demolitions).

(6) We must be good stewards of taxpayer dollars and resources, and employ sound training management and Class V forecasting. Units will turn in excess Class V to the Ammunition Supply Point.

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4. Expiration Date. This memorandum remains in effect until superseded or rescinded in writing and signed by the appropriate authority.

5. Proponent. Direct any questions concerning this policy to the Chief of Training at 808-655-5351.



JAMES B. JARRARD
Major General, USA
Commanding