BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
910TH AIRLIFT WING

910TH AIRLIFT WING INSTRUCTION 91-206

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Safety

BLANK AMMUNITION SAFETY

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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This instruction implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 91-2, *Safety Programs*. It establishes procedures for using and handling blank ammunition. It outlines responsibilities, issue, turn-in, expenditure, and controlling and inventory procedures, emergency or abnormal conditions action and safety according to Air Force Manual 91-201, *Explosive Safety Standards,* paragraph 2.14, and applicable supplements. This instruction applies to all personnel assigned to Youngstown ARS, Ohio.

1. Responsibilities:

1.1. It is the responsibility of all commanders or their designated representatives to ensure that live ammunition is not introduced into a training environment where ball and blank ammunition could be commingled or mistaken for each other.

1.2. It is the responsibility of the 910 MXS/MXMVM Munitions Accountability Systems Officer (MASO), to ensure that customers receive the proper blank ammunition requested.

1.3. It is the responsibility of the 910 MXS/MXMVM Senior Munitions Inspector to visually inspect all blank ammunition to verify that no ball ammunition has been commingled with blank ammunition.

1.4. Users are directly responsible for the control and use of ammunition issued to them for either real world or exercise purposes. Accountability of assets, to include expenditures, will be validated upon the issue and turn-in of the assets, at the beginning and end of each shift, or whenever required to eliminate a discrepancy.

2. Issue, Turn-In, Expenditure, and Controlling Procedures:

2.1. Issue:

2.1.1. The procedures for issuing, turn-in, and reporting expenditures are located in the Munitions

2.1.2. All assets will be issued from 910 MXS/MXMVM in proper shipping configuration.

2.1.3. Once assets are issued to a custody account, it is the responsibility of that organizational commander or designated representative to issue the ammunition to their personnel using an AF Form 1297, Temporary Issue/Receipt Document. Forms will be maintained for a period of 90days from the date of the exercise termination.

2.1.4. Once issued to an authorized individual, the ammunition may be distributed to those per-sons requiring munitions for training purposes as long as all persons are identified and briefed on safety and accountability.

2.1.5. Personnel and equipment will be inspected to ensure that only blank rounds of ammunition are introduced into an exercise/training environment.

2.1.6. Units must provide training to emphasize safe handling, weapon operation, use of blank and bird control ammunition, and operator maintenance. This training should be documented in the Career Field Education and Training Plan (CFETP), or on AF Form 1098, Special Task Certification and Recurring Training.

2.1.7. Under no circumstances will ball and blank ammo be issued to other than Security Forces personnel without the supervision of a Combat Arms Instructor, appointed MXS/MXMVM personnel, or an individual trained and qualified in accordance with this operating instruction and AFMAN 91-201, AFRC Supplement paragraph 2.14.1.10.

2.2. Turn-in:

2.2.1. All unexpended rounds will be returned to the point of issue, along with any dud/damaged ammunition, upon completion of the exercise. Commanders or their designated representatives will ensure all personnel and equipment are inspected for any live rounds, and that expended and live ammunition is segregated.

2.2.2. All unexpended munitions will be returned to their original containers according to lot number. The quantity will be annotated on a piece of tape placed over the original quantity.

2.2.3. Commanders or their designated representatives will visually inspect all ammunition turned-in. Segregate the live and expended rounds and return it to the 910 MASO, in the original containers, upon termination of the exercise and return assets to 910 MXS/MXMVM.

2.3. Controlling:

2.3.1. Commanders or their designated representatives will monitor the installation/removal of blank ammunition from magazines. Customer Guides supplied to the customer account representative by the MASO.

2.3.2. During exercises involving training munitions, all magazines loaded with “Blank” ammunition will be marked with the color blue. Use blue paint or blue tape a minimum of 3” wide on the bottom 2/3 of the magazine to mark magazines loaded with blank munitions.

2.3.3. Ball ammo is prohibited in the exercise area unless absolutely necessary.

2.3.3.1. Personnel armed with ball ammo are prohibited from participating in any exercise involving blank munitions.

2.3.3.2. When it is necessary to have ball ammo present at an exercise involving blank munitions for real world security; the guard weapon will be an M9 to prevent commingling of ball and blank ammo.

2.3.3.2.1. If the guard weapon is an M16 then the 30 round magazines loaded with ball ammo will be marked with red tape or paint no less then 3” wide visible on the bottom 2/3of the magazine.

2.3.4. At no time will blank ammunition be fired though a weapon that does not have a Blank Firing Adapter (BFA) properly installed.

3. Exact location and method of employment:

3.1. The commander will appoint an Exercise Team Chief (ETC).

3.2. The ETC will prepare a risk assessment and detailed list of munitions authorized for use in the exercise to include locations according to AFMAN 91-201 paragraph 2.16.

4. Emergency or Abnormal Conditions Actions :

4.1. Immediately report all accidents or incidents to your supervisor or senior member of your team.

4.2. A ball round of ammunition mixed in with blank ammunition is an emergency situation. If found, stop all exercise activities, notify your supervision and the MASO, immediately. Exercise will not continue until authorized personnel can determine verification of ammunition.

4.3. The Safety Official designated by the Commander or Exercise Supervisor, will have a cellular telephone or radio to enable him/her to contact emergency personnel to include the Security Forces Control Center in the event of a mishap or abnormal condition.

4.4. The Safety Official will obtain a list of emergency numbers to contact from the exercise area in the event of a mishap or abnormal condition. Appointed individual will ensure the Security Forces Chief, Security Police Desk Sergeant, MASO, Base Medical Personnel, Fire Department and Weapons Safety offices are notified of any mishaps and complete any necessary paperwork.

4.5. Unexploded ground simulators/pyrotechnics and smoke producing munitions will be dealt with in the following manner.

4.5.1. Duds will be marked with a red flag or any other crude-marking device to facilitate in their location. Duds will not be handled under any circumstances without EOD approval.

4.5.2. Only qualified personnel will handle such items.

4.5.3. EOD will only be contacted through the MASO or Safety Official. The request to EOD will be for guidance or assistance.

4.5.4. At no time will dud rounds be broken open.

4.6. In the event a round fails to fire, take the appropriate immediate action detailed in the weapon’s operator manual.

5. Inventory Procedures:

5.1. A complete inventory of all blank and ball ammunition will be conducted prior to the start of the exercise, at the change of shift, at the end of the day, and at the end of the exercise.

5.2. All out of balance conditions shall cause the exercise to be terminated until the out of balance condition is resolved.

5.3. AF Form 4331 will be used to document the inventory of all blank ammunition. Forms will be maintained for a period of 90 days from the date of the exercise termination.

6. Munitions Residue: Munitions residue procedures are contained in 910 AWI 21-202, Munitions Residue, Packaging Material and Empty Containers.

7. Expenditures: To the maximum extent possible, all expended brass generated during the training exercise will be picked up, inspected, placed in containers and returned to the munitions function according to 910 AWI 21-202.

8. Training:

8.1. A safety briefing will be given prior to commencing any training with munitions or explosives. Brief personnel regarding their responsibilities from a safety and accountability stand point. The briefing must be recorded and the documentation will be kept for a minimum of 90-days. Records must include the following:

8.1.1. Name of the personnel who received the briefing.

8.1.2. Date the briefing took place.

8.1.3. A description, copy or location of briefing materials used to brief personnel.

8.1.4. The name of the person who provided the briefing.

8.2. The safety briefing will contain as a minimum the following points.

8.2.1. Ammunition identification, to include pictures of blank and ball ammunition.

8.2.2. Blank/training ammunitions will not be fired/discharged any closer to personnel than specified below.

8.2.2.1. 5.56mm blank ammunition, P/N: M200 will be fired no closer than 20 feet. P/N M200 ammunition is used in M16/M16A2/M4 rifles, GUU-5/P sub machine guns and M249 automatic rifles. Air Force Technical Orders (TO) 11W3-5-5-41, Operator's Manual, Rifle, 5.56mm, M16A2, and 11W3-5-5-51, Operator's Manual, Machine Gun, 5.56mm, M249.

8.2.2.2. 7.62 blank ammunition, P/N: M80, will be fired no closer than 20 feet. M80 ammunition is used in the M60/M240 machine guns. According to TO 11W2-6-4-11, Operator's Manual, Machine Gun, 7.62mm, M60.

8.2.3. Prior to starting or terminating training, conduct a thorough check of all ammo pouches, rucksacks, mobility bags and magazines for ball ammunition.

8.2.4. Prior to firing any weapon, all personnel will be thoroughly indoctrinated in the proper handling of the weapon.

8.2.5. All ammunition will be pre-checked to determine if they are the types intended to be fired.

8.2.6. Never allow a round to be chambered unless it will be immediately fired.

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