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**Security**

**COMBAT ARMS TRAINING AND  
MAINTENANCE (CATM) PROGRAM**

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This publication implements Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 31-1, *Integrated Defense*. This publication describes the Department of the Air Force (DAF) CATM program. It applies to the entire DAF, including DAF civilian employees and uniformed members of the United States Air Force (USAF), the United States Space Force (USSF), the Air Force Reserve (AFR), the Air National Guard (ANG), and those with a contractual obligation to abide by the terms of DAF issuances, except where noted otherwise. All references to USAF terminology, units, grades, and positions will also apply to the equivalent in the USSF, as appropriate. For example, references to Airmen will also apply to Guardians. This Instruction requires the collection and or maintenance of information protected by the Privacy Act of 1974 authorized by Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 5400.11, *DoD Privacy Program*. The applicable System of Records Notice (SORN) is F032 AF CE G, *Automated Civil Engineer System Records* (June 23, 2011, 76, FR, 36903) available at <https://dpcl.d.defense.gov/privacy/SORNS.aspx>. Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to Air Force Instruction 33-322, *Records Management and Information Governance Program*, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule, which is located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility (OPR) using the DAF Form 847,

*Recommendation for Change of Publication*; route DAF Forms 847 from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command. This publication may be supplemented at any level, but all supplements must be routed to the OPR of this publication for coordination prior to certification and approval. The authorities to waive wing, unit, or delta level requirements in this publication are identified with a tier (“T-0, T-1, T-2, T-3”) number following the compliance statement. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the appropriate tier waiver approval authority, or alternately, to the first general officer in the requesting unit’s chain of command for non-tiered compliance items. See DAFMAN 90-161, *Publishing Processes and Procedures*, for a description of the authorities associated with the tier numbers. The use of the name or mark of any specific manufacturer, commercial product, commodity, or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by the Department of the Air Force.

(AETC)This supplement implements and extends the guidance of DAFI31-131, Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) Program. This publication applies to all civilian employees and uniformed members of the Regular Air Force, the Air Force Reserve, the Air National Guard, and those who are contractually obligated to comply with Department of the Air Force publications. This publication does not apply to the United States Space Force. This publication outlines the sustainment and proficiency firing program for Security Forces personnel assigned to AETC Security Forces Squadrons performing Base defense missions. It also establishes a 20% parts requirement for AETC training units for the M18 handguns. Ensure all records generated as a result of processes prescribed in this publication adhere to AFI 33-322, Records Management and Information Governance Program, and are disposed in accordance with the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule located in the Air Force Records Information Management System. Subordinate units may supplement this instruction. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the office of primary responsibility (OPR) using the DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Product*, from the field through the appropriate functional chain of command to the OPR. The authorities to waive wing/unit level requirements in this publication are identified with a Tier number (“T-0, T-1, T-2, T-3”) following the compliance statement. Submit requests for waivers through the chain of command to the publication OPR for non-tiered compliance items. The use of the name or mark of any specific manufacturer, commercial product, commodity, or service in this publication does not imply endorsement by the DAF

### ***SUMMARY OF CHANGES***

This document has been revised and should be completely reviewed. Major changes include adding Space Force-equivalent language where appropriate, Air Force Force Generation training guidance, removed references to SEI 312, and organization updates throughout.

## Chapter 1

### ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

**1.1. Overview.** This publication supports a family of publications each containing its own purpose. This instruction establishes policy for the Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) program under most circumstances. Use this instruction in conjunction with DAFMAN 31-131 Volume 1, *Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) Operations*, DAFMAN 31-131 Volume 2, *Small Arms and Light Weapons Qualification Programs*, and DAFMAN 31-131 Volume 3, *Small Arms and Light Weapons Handling Procedures*. Personnel managing, performing, conducting, participating in, observing, and supporting CATM, and range operations must adhere to program requirements, policies, procedures, roles, and responsibilities outlined in DAFMAN 31-131 Volumes 1-3 and this publication.

**1.2. Director of Security Forces (AF/A4S).** AF/A4S, under the leadership of the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS), Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection (AF/A4), serves as lead agent for the CATM program, virtual/synthetic training systems, small arms and light weapons (SA/LW), accessories, enablers, and ground-munitions (excluding demolition) requirements, for the different portfolios for both lethal and non-lethal capabilities. This includes budget formalization and submittal, strategic direction and planning, modernization, requirements, adoption, development, fielding, sustainment, training, maintenance, employment, and ground combat lethality. AF/A4S will:

1.2.1. Administer the DAF SA/LW – Enterprise Governance (DAF SA/LW – EG) structure, which consists of the DAF SA/LW – Capabilities Working Group (DAF SA/LW – CWG), DAF SA/LW – Forum (DAF SA/LW – F), AF/A4S, and the AF/A4 Enterprise Council.

1.2.2. Oversee the different DAF SA/LW – EG managing responsibilities for SA/LW, accessories, enablers, and ground-munitions requirements development and approvals to include modifications, adoptions, S&T/R&D, non-lethal, and COTS (other than ground-munitions) through the different working groups designed to synchronize with key stakeholders.

1.2.3. Establish the DAF SA/LW – F to serve as the senior cross-functional forum for finalizing and approving DAF SA/LW – CWG recommendations including budgeting and execution, planning and programming, and governance oversight to inform AF/A4S, and AF/A4, as required.

1.2.4. Establish, review, and approve policies related to the CATM program, SA/LW, accessories, enablers, and forecasting ground-munitions, to include weapons training and maintenance requirements of personnel and missions.

1.2.5. Establish strategy, policy and guidance, and modernization for the SA/LW, non-lethal weapons, and ground munitions portfolios supporting SA/LW.

1.2.6. Serve as the DAF representative on the Joint Service Small Arms Program (JSSAP), Joint Service Small Arms Synchronization Team (JSSAST). Appoints personnel to the Joint Service Small Arms Requirements Integration Working Group (JSSARI), Joint Service Small Arms Metrics and Evaluation Working Group (JSSAME), and the Joint Service Small Arms Program Science and Technology Advisory Council (JSTAC), as required.

1.2.7. Serve as the DAF representative as the Air Staff's Non-Lethal Weapons (NLW) focal point on the Department of Defense (DoD) Executive Agent's NLW, Joint Integrated Product Team (JIPT).

1.2.8. Serve as the DAF representative for engagements with industry, other Services and internal or external agencies for all SA/LW and CATM program processes, programs, technology, and issues.

1.2.9. Manage Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) 3P0X1B and DoD civilian equivalent to support the CATM program.

1.2.10. Assist and coordinate with appropriate functional area managers and key stakeholders to submit programming initiatives and obtain funding for developing, modernizing, or procuring legacy and new SA/LW and their support.

1.2.11. Participate in Joint Service SA/LW training, science and technology (S&T), research and development (R&D), coordination, working groups, and associated equipment activities.

1.2.12. Appoint other representatives as needed for DoD, other government agencies, JSSAP, JNLWD, and other required events and boards or technology evaluation and selection groups.

1.2.13. Approve all RDT&E plans and events as well as any deviations to same.

1.2.14. Approve all DAF positions and decisions associated with the CATM & SA/LW portfolios.

1.2.15. Manage and perform headquarters-level functional area manager (FAM) duties for CATM AFSC and coordinate with other FAMs, as required.

1.2.16. Participate as a core member (AF/A4SO) of the Small Arms Range Working Group (SARWG).

1.2.17. Approve SA/LW, accessories, enablers, and ground-munitions supporting SA/LW prior to fielding, to include COTS (other than ground-munitions).

### **1.3. Director of Logistics (AF/A4L) will:**

1.3.1. Provide overall management of SA/LW and ground-munitions inventories.

1.3.2. Provide policies and procedures for management of munitions accountability, forecasting, and logistics support under the Theater Integrated Combat Munitions System (TICMS).

**1.4. Director of Resource Integration (AF/A4P):** Prepares and manages resource programs for munitions, War Reserve Materiel, support equipment (SA/LW), vehicles, as well as installations, facilities, emergency services, integrated defense, combat support, command support, public affairs, and Headquarters Air Force.

### **1.5. Air Education and Training Command (AETC) will:**

1.5.1. Ensure technical training capabilities in support of initial and follow-on skills development for the CATM skill sets (AFSC 3P0X1B and civilian equivalent).

1.5.2. Manage CATM training and SA/LW maintenance in support of Basic Military Training (BMT), Officer Training School (OTS), Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC), Warrant Officer Training School (WOTS), and technical training courses.

1.5.3. Through Second Air Force (2 AF), provide oversight for CATM operations performed at the 37th Training Support Squadron (37 TRSS) and the 343d Training Squadron (343 TRS), with

assistance from AETC/A4S. For SA/LW qualification training programs, range operations, weapon maintenance and training management of assigned CATM personnel, these organizations use the guidance in this publication and DAFMAN 31-131 Volumes 1-3.

1.5.4. Ensure the 37th Training Group (37 TRSS Combat Weapons Flight) provides CATM training and SA/LW maintenance support to 2nd Air Force formal courses.

1.5.5. Provide base CATM functions for Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). This includes all the responsibilities normally performed by the Security Forces Squadron CATM Section for base support and funded through AFIMSC.

**1.6. Major Command (MAJCOM) Security Forces (MAJCOM/SF) will:**

1.6.1. Review waiver requests applicable to CATM organizations within the MAJCOM.

1.6.2. Coordinate recommendations for changes to qualification and or orientation courses to AF/A4SO.

1.6.3. Establish a sustainment-training program for security forces personnel to include frequency, type, and courses of fire. The Shoot, Move, and Communicate (SMC) course may be incorporated in the sustainment-training program.

1.6.4. For the Air Reserve Component (Air Force Reserve Command and National Guard Bureau), appoint a CATM program manager and if necessary, an assistant program manager to oversee the component's small arms training and maintenance, range modernization and ground munitions programs. This individual must be a noncommissioned officer (NCO) with an AFSC 3P071B or DoD civilian equivalent.

**1.7. Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center (AFIMSC) will:** Provide funding for active-duty combat arms base support functions for organizations with a CATM mission.

**1.8. Air Force Security Forces Center (AFSFC) will:**

1.8.1. Conduct periodic reviews on training material every four years to ensure accuracy and currency. 1.8.2. Review and approve non-qualification SA/LW training programs conducted at formal training courses, readiness training centers, and readiness training sites. Changes to expeditionary training courses must also be approved with guidance provided in AFI 10-405, *Ready Airman Training*. **Note:** This does not include unit-level proficiency training, which the CATM Section Chief approves.

1.8.3. Perform MAJCOM Munitions User Functional Manager (MUFM) duties for MAJCOMs that did not retain Security Forces MUFM responsibilities.

1.8.4. Assist career field managers with training development to support proficiency and sustainment training programs, as needed.

1.8.5. Provide technical assistance and guidance to MAJCOM/SF and CATM sections.

1.8.6. Maintain the AF/A4S approved Authorized Small Arms and Light Weapons Accessories listing on the CATM SharePoint® site.

1.8.7. Conduct virtual and or in-person program management reviews (PMR) utilizing Management Information Control Toolset (MICT).

1.8.8. Coordinate on MAJCOM/SF developed sustainment-training (AFSFC/S3T & AFSFC/S4W) prior to implementation.

1.8.9. Coordinate activities with AF/A4S to ensure all official positions and plans are approved.

**1.9. Air Force Small Arms Program Office (SAPO) will:**

1.9.1. Centrally obtain only those AF/A4S approved SA/LW, associated enablers, and accessories, tools, and test measurement diagnostic equipment for existing and future items per required life cycle management procedures to support validated requirements processes, projects, and programs which have, as appropriate, been subject to legal review in accordance with the requirements in DoDI 2311.01, *DoD Law of War Program* and AFI 51-401, *Law of War*.

1.9.2. Advise AF/A4S by providing life cycle management data and recommendations such as engineering risk assessment, budget execution, projects, cost analysis for legacy and proposed SA/LW and associated enablers, and equipment, as required.

1.9.3. Approve cleaners not listed in the applicable technical orders (TO) for SA/LW use.

1.9.4. Provide overall life cycle logistic management of SA/LW following the guidance provided in the applicable 23-series publications and takes funding direction from AF/A4S.

1.9.5. Be responsible for SA/LW acquisition and sustainment following the guidance provided in the applicable 63-series publications.

1.9.6. Work closely with AF/A4S (DAF SA/LW – EG) for all users and requirements.

**1.10. Commanders and Directors (or Equivalent) (as defined in AFI 38-101) will:**

1.10.1. Ensure compliance with guidance in this publication and ensuring weapons, weapon systems, modifications of weapons and weapons systems receive a legal review in accordance with the DoDD 2311.01 and AFI 51-401. Furthermore, ensure the completion of legal reviews for all SA/LW modifications of existing weapons or uses not reasonably contemplated or authorized by prior legal reviews. Process requests through the DAF SA/LW – Enterprise Governance, which will be forwarded to AF/JAO, Operations and International Law Directorate, to ensure appropriate reviews (e.g., legal / Non-Nuclear Munitions Safety Board) are conducted prior to fielding. This includes ground-munitions, accessories, and enablers that modify a previously approved weapon or weapon system prior to procurement and or employment.

1.10.2. Ensure personnel conducting SA/LW training follow the applicable technical order (TO) guidance pertaining to maximum allowable number of rounds per day, safe distances, personal protective equipment, and backblast danger area restrictions.

1.10.3. Ensure personnel follow the guidance in the DoD Blast Overpressure Reference and Information Guide (D-BOP-RIG) to the maximum extent possible when training on Tier 1 weapon systems (e.g., M3A1, M2A1, M136, M72). The guide is located on the DoD Environment, Safety & Occupational Health Network and Information Exchange (DENIX) website at <https://denix.osd.mil/auth/soh/denix-files/sites/21/2024/04/D-BOP-RIG-20240408.pdf>.

**1.11. Security Forces/CATM Organizational Commander will:**

1.11.1. Rely on the CATM Section Chief for analysis and input on weapons employment decisions, such as weapon and munitions capabilities, placement, and selection to enhance base defense. Include CATM in planning weapons and munitions solutions to support all missions.

1.11.2. Ensure the CATM section submits budget forecasts for equipment and supplies to meet the installation's SA/LW training and maintenance program, to include range equipment such as advanced target systems, target retrieval systems, and virtual training systems (simulators).

**1.11.3. Ensure the CATM Section Chief is a 3P071B (formally SEI 312) with the minimum grade of E6 or a DoD civilian equivalent.**

1.11.3.(AETC) Ensure units with a high training load (i.e., 37 TRSS and 343 TRS) are funded to maintain a minimum of a 20% bench stock of any high worn part which has been identified by CATM in previous maintenance records for weapon systems they support for maintenance.

1.11.4. Ensure lead instructors, tower operators, and SA/LW repair personnel are AFSC 3P0X1B or DoD civilian equivalent or other tasked certified personnel as permitted.

1.11.4.(AETC) Ensure unit personnel with a base defense arming requirement complete their weapons sustainment training utilizing a minimum one of the approved courses of fire on the CATM SharePoint®™ site. Weapon sustainment training, at a minimum, will include weapons qualification, live fire sustainment firing, Shoot Move and Communicate, and a Commander directed live fire/synthetic fire, or simulator training event. Unit personnel will qualify on their primary weapons using one quarter of the yearly schedule, then using the remaining three quarters of the year, if not deployed, for proficiency training with sustainment firing on primary weapons to complete a full training cycle. The change in frequency of firing for assigned Police Officers may require Impact and Implementation (I&I) actions depending on the applicable Contract Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Consult your wing labor relations specialist on how best to proceed.

1.11.5. Ensure task priority meets the installation training and maintenance requirements for base defense, contingency plans and deployments including during range closures, instructor shortages and instructor deployments.

1.11.5.(AETC) Ensure units CATM section incorporate and follow the additional inspection criteria outlined in TO11W3-3-4-32 and associated supplements are followed when conducting M18 Modular Handgun System (MHS) inspections.

1.11.6. Provide training using the priorities outlined in DAFMAN 31-131 V1.

1.11.6.(AETC) Ensure any CATM waiver requests are sent to the central managers for AETC's Combat Arms program at the Air Force Security Forces Center for a Subject Matter Expert (SME) review prior to sending them to AETC.

1.11.7. Ensure adequate quantities of trained and certified non-CATM personnel are available to perform firing line official and assistant instructor duties during live fire and classroom training when staffing is not sufficient to meet mission requirements.

1.11.8. Ensure the CATM section uses the Automated Readiness Information System (ARIS) to enter and maintain CATM Program records.

1.11.9. Provide assigned CATM instructors opportunities to attend advanced training courses/programs conducted by other DoD agencies and civilian schools when possible.

1.11.10. Appoint a Staff Sergeant (minimum) or DoD civilian equivalent, as the NCOIC of the Security Forces armory.

**1.12. Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) Section Chief or Civilian Equivalent (CATM Manager) will:**

1.12.1. Review proposed host tenant support agreements in coordination with the office of the servicing Staff Judge Advocate when tenant units request SA/LW maintenance, qualification-training, or range use from the host wing.

1.12.2. Manage the installation's CATM Program, Security Forces' Armory Operations, and serve as the SA/LW and ground munitions capabilities employment tactics subject matter expert for the Security Forces commander.

1.12.3. Ensure installation budget and resource requirements are submitted to applicable authority for consideration into the annual budget and maintain a list of unfunded requirements for the CATM program.

1.12.3.1. (Added)(AETC) While assigned to the 37 TRSS and 343 TRS missions only, ensure funding requests are submitted to maintain a 20% bench stock of any high worn parts identified in previous maintenance records by CATM personnel for weapon systems they support for maintenance.

1.12.4. Forecast for munitions requirements flowing the guidance in DAFMAN 21-209 Volume 1, AFMAN 21-209 Volume 2, *Demolition Munitions*, and the Ground Munitions Authorization Tables (GMAT).

1.12.5. Maintain training statistics for all CATM training scheduled and accomplished. CATM will use ARIS to maintain records of all training scheduled and conducted.

1.12.5.(AETC)1 (Added) Ensures all weapons training classes are loaded into the Automated Readiness Information System (ARIS) and each weapon serial number is loaded to the rounds fired during training.

1.12.6. Ensure CATM personnel are aware of the hazards (e.g., airborne lead, noise, solvents, weather exposure) associated with their duties as outlined in DAFI 91-202, *The Department of the Air Force Mishap Prevention Program*, and coordinate with appropriate support agencies to ensure personnel are aware of range-unique health hazards.

1.12.7. Plan and conduct Excellence-In-Competition (EIC) matches with approval from the Air Force Services Center, DAF Shooting Program, using the Services Tools for Activity Reporting & Tracking (START) SharePoint site at <https://usaf.dps.mil/teams/start/eic/SitePages/Home.aspx#/EIC/>. Only currently certified CATM personnel may conduct EIC matches. (T-1)

1.12.8. Ensure the CATM Trainer is AFSC 3P051B with the minimum grade of E5 or a DoD civilian equivalent.

1.12.9. (Added)(AETC) Ensure the additional inspection criteria outlined in TO11W3-3-4-32 and associated supplements are followed when conducting M18 Modular Handgun System (MHS) inspections.

**1.13. Combat Arms Training and Maintenance (CATM) Trainer will:** Assist the CATM Section Chief with their roles and responsibilities in the family of publications.

## Chapter 2

### TRAINING PROGRAM

**2.1. Overview.** This chapter defines policy and procedures to execute the CATM training program. Air Force Doctrine Publication (AFDP) 3-10, *Force Protection* outlines all military Airmen should be trained and equipped to protect and defend the base against threats. Training includes basic ground combat skills training (e.g., weapons familiarization, tactical combat casualty care [TCCC]) and other relevant training required to prepare Airmen to better protect themselves and the base. We must move to a constant state of readiness that better supports home station (peacetime) arming, deployments to combat zones and or designated hostile fire areas, to act quickly in response to dynamic adversaries within the changing future environment.

#### **2.2. Qualification and Frequency.**

2.2.1. DoDD 5210.56, *Arming and the Use of Force*, identifies the minimum training requirements and frequency of qualification training needed to arm DoD personnel. This guidance governs home station (peacetime) arming and specifically states requirements do not apply to DoD personnel engaged in military operations subject to the standing or other rules of engagement. Personnel who receive this training (based on mission need) may be military, DoD civilian or civilian contractors in support of DAF missions. **Note:** Civilian position descriptions (e.g., Office of Personnel Management [OPM] series 0083) must annotate any specific training requirements for that position. Personnel with an arming requirement will complete live fire qualification training every 12-months on all SA/LW with which they are armed or employ. **(T-0)**

2.2.2. Personnel with an in-garrison (home station) arming requirement and or as a requirement of their AFSC (e.g., Security Forces, Air Force Office of Special Investigations, aircrew armed for anti-hijacking) will qualify every 12-months. **(T-0)**

2.2.3. Personnel (e.g., Expeditionary Medical Support System [EMEDS], Rapid Engineering Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineer [RED HORSE], Tactical Air Control Party [TACP], Capability Generation Team, and Air Force Force Generation [AFFORGEN]) filling a deployment tasking or deployment tasking to a combat zone in time of war or a designated hostile fire area that requires weapons qualification will complete live-fire qualification training on all specifically identified individual (e.g., rifle, carbine, handgun, grenade launcher, shotgun, submachine gun, automatic rifle) and or crew-served (e.g., light, medium and heavy machine guns) weapons. Qualification training must be completed within 12-months of their arrive in country date. **(T-1)** This qualification will be valid for 12-months or the entire duration of the deployment, regardless of length, providing qualification training was successfully completed as required by this instruction prior to deployment.

2.2.4. Force & Infrastructure Category (FIC) 2, under AFFORGEN (e.g., labs, depots, test ranges, schools, hospitals) are not required to receive qualification-training.

2.2.5. Accessions (i.e., BMT trainees, WOTS, OTS, and United States Air Force Academy [USAFA] cadets) may receive a one-time training event (qualification or orientation) on either the rifle or handgun on an “as available” basis. **Note:** BMT trainees and WOTS cadets’ complete qualification training on the Air Force Basic Qualification Course (AFBQC) using the Close Combat Optic (CCO) only. Accessions are not required to wear individual combat equipment (ICE) during training.

### 2.3. Sustainment, Proficiency, and Mechanical Training Frequencies.

2.3.1. The unit is responsible for conducting sustainment and proficiency training. **Note:** See DAFMAN 31-131 V1 for unit-level training requirements.

2.3.2. AFSCs directed by their functional, MAJCOM, or Air Force Career Field Manager (AFCFM) are required to complete mandatory unit live fire sustainment training after completion of qualification training on their primary weapon(s). **Note:** MAJCOM/SF sustainment training programs will not exceed the munitions quantities listed in GMAT, Table 2B.1, *Security Forces Members Proficiency or Familiarization Training Allowance*. If forecasted on different Functional User Codes (e.g., S3 [Security Forces] or C1 [Combat Arms]), the total numbers will not exceed Table 2B.1.

2.3.2.(AETC) Security Forces Squadrons will choose and utilize a minimum of one of the approved courses of fire on the CATM SharePoint® site in order to conduct sustainment training. Units with a more expansive firing range capability/space on the installation or with access to local area advanced range(s) via partnerships, may develop a more advanced course of fire. They must route the developed course of fire and range safety considerations/assessment to the central managers at the AFSFC Combat Arms section for formal approval. As a baseline, if unit personnel qualify in one quarter on primary weapons, then the remaining three quarters of the year, if not deployed, will require proficiency and sustainment firing on primary weapons to complete a full training cycle. Weapon sustainment training at a minimum will include weapons qualification, live fire sustainment firing, Shoot Move and Communicate and Commander directed live fire/synthetic fire, or simulator training event. All events will be loaded into ARIS for a complete record of weapons training and are visible within the Air Force system.

2.3.3. M2A1, MK19 machine gunners, and assistant gunners must complete mechanical training 5- to 7-months after live-fire qualification training. **(T-1) Note:** Any other unique qualification frequencies are identified in the applicable chapter of DAFMAN 31-131 V2.

2.3.3.(AETC) The identified mechanical training is equivalent to the MK19, M2, and M240B mechanical sustainment training outlined in DAFMAN 31-131V2, Small Arms and Light Weapons Qualifications Programs.

2.3.4. Advanced Designated Marksman (ADM) personnel will qualify twice each year and complete mandatory sustainment training twice each year, alternating between qualification and sustainment each calendar year quarter until the arming requirement no longer exists. See ADM Air Force Qualification Course (AFQC) guidance in DAFMAN 31-131 V2.

2.3.5. Personnel are exempt from unit live-fire sustainment, mechanical training, and semi-annual qualification requirements while deployed and qualifications remain valid for the entire length of deployment.

**2.4. Initial Live-Fire Qualification.** This is detailed, in-depth academic and live-fire training designed to give an individual the knowledge and skills necessary to meet qualification standards for arming with a specific type of SA/LW (individual, gunners, and assistant gunners) and passing all training objectives.

**2.5. Recurring Qualification Training.** This is qualification training after initial qualification and consists of classroom instruction, passing performance evaluations, and qualifying on the appropriate qualification course to counter proficiency and skill retention lost over time. Individuals must have already been initially qualified (live fire) on the weapon. **(T-1)**

2.5.1. A “training session” is defined as one trip to the classroom/range to receive qualification training. A “same-day re-fire” is defined as one additional attempt during a qualification training session to qualify if a student fails to qualify on the first attempt. If the student fails the one additional same day re-fire attempt, they must be scheduled for remedial training, as only one same day re-fire is permitted. **Note:** Same day re-fire attempts are not mandatory nor automatic and are at the discretion of the CATM Section Chief.

2.5.2. Individuals who fail to meet a specific qualification training standard during multiple phase courses may continue to fire the entire course before receiving an on-the-spot re-fire attempt on the phase they failed. Group re-fire attempts may be administered after the entire course is fired or anytime between phases.

**2.6. Remedial Firearms Training.** This is in-depth training to emphasize shooting fundamentals and focus on specific problems to afford the trainee an opportunity to improve. CATM may provide training and live-fire evaluation on only the phases of the course the individual did not successfully complete. Same day refires or on-the-spot corrections are not considered remedial training. **Note:** Do not mix initial or recurring students with remedial students in the same classes.

2.6.1. Instructors may issue additional ammunition for use during remedial zeroing and teaching phases. Conduct ball and dummy exercises, similar drills, or simulator training, as needed, before evaluation.

2.6.2. Students are permitted one re-fire during the remedial training session(s). If they fail on the second attempt; schedule them for a second remedial class.

2.6.3. If a student fails to qualify and has been scheduled for remedial training, the firing line official will prepare a written assessment of the shooter’s problems. **(T-3)** This evaluation assists future instructors to focus efforts on the problems. Maintain the assessment until the next scheduled remedial training class.

2.6.4. If the student fails to qualify after the second remedial class, the CATM Section Chief will provide the individual’s unit commander a written summary of probable causes of the failures. **(T-3)** If the commander determines the individual’s duties require arming and recommends the individual for additional training, the student will attend another remedial class with no more than two attempts at qualifying. **(T-3)**

2.6.5. If the individual still fails to qualify after the third remedial training session, the commander determines the individual’s continued need for armed duty or contingency deployment. **(T-3)**

**2.7. Orientation Training.** Orientation training does not qualify an individual for armed duty.

2.7.1. Handgun orientation training may be conducted for USAFA and ROTC accessions. This training consists of classroom instruction in general firearms safety, basic operation, and marksmanship fundamentals outlined in DAFMAN 31-131 V2.

2.7.2. Rifle orientation training may be conducted for USAFA and ROTC officer accessions. This training consists of classroom instruction in general firearms safety, basic operation, and

marksmanship fundamentals. After completion of classroom training, students participate in a live-fire session on the AFBQC with guidance provided in DAFMAN 31-131 V2.

**2.8. Deployment Qualification Training Requirements.** For deployment, individuals must complete the applicable qualification course in its entirety as required without a waiver, other than those approved by the combatant command (CCMD) for the weapons required for the deployment. **Note:** The CCMD may impose requirements that are more stringent or may not approve the application of home station waivers.

2.8.1. The unit deployment manager will verify reporting instructions to ensure their personnel receive required training and that CCMD requirements are met. **(T-3)**

2.8.2. Personnel complete qualification-training wearing ICE and perform all reloading portions from the magazine pouches or vest they expect to use when deployed. **(T-2)**

2.8.2.1. As a minimum, ICE must include helmet, body armor, load bearing apparatus, magazine pouches (if not incorporated in a vest), holsters for the handgun (if applicable), and protective (gas) mask. Commanders may require other unique ICE to be worn during firing, with approval from the CATM Section Chief to ensure range safety is not compromised. For ranges where helmets cannot be worn during live-fire due to hearing protection requirements, CATM will perform dry-fire training with students wearing helmets in the classroom and on the range and conduct performance evaluations to ensure proficiency. **(T-2)**

2.8.2.2. Aircrew personnel who will not perform any ground combat duties at the deployed location or use ICE in their duties are exempt from the ICE requirement during qualification training. Aircrew personnel with an arming requirement with the GAU-5A (Aircrew Self Defense Weapon) will complete qualification training with guidance provided in DAFMAN 31-131 V2.

2.8.3. Personnel permanently assigned to sister service installations and directly supporting joint service missions who are authorized to use sister service firearms qualifications as outlined in **Paragraph 2.10** may use this qualification for deployment if accomplished within the required time.

2.8.4. Personnel whose qualifications were current prior to departure from home station for deployment will remain qualified for 30-days upon return to home station if the original expiration date surpassed 12-months, not to exceed a total qualification length of 24-months.

2.8.5. Personnel who are taking an issued weapon on the deployment will complete live-fire zero with the issued weapon, utilizing all issued aiming devices and sights (optics) prior to leaving home station or staging area if they used a different weapon to complete qualification-training. This includes individuals deploying with a weapon from extended storage and or weapon changed for any reason. When possible, individuals fire and qualify with the actual assigned military weapon they will be assigned during deployment. There are locations with pre-positioned SA/LW and firing the actual weapon before the deployment is not feasible. In these cases, if possible, the installation/site commander at the deployed location should make allowances for conducting zero fire at the deployed location.

## **2.9. Overseas Firearms Qualification Information.**

2.9.1. Personnel Processing Code (PPC) identifies if an assignment requires individuals to be qualified. Personnel with questions about PPCs or overseas firing requirements should contact their local Military Personnel Section (MPS), Military Personnel Flight (MPF) or gaining

command for guidance. The CATM section only provides qualification training not interpretation of the codes or justification. For unique situations, refer to **Paragraph 2.15** for qualification extension options. **Note:** Contiguous United States (CONUS) to CONUS assignments may have a PPC assigned, in this case, provide training per the PPC. MAJCOM PPC identified individuals with outside the CONUS (OCONUS) assignments normally receive either rifle/carbine or handgun qualification training unless function or mission dictate otherwise.

2.9.2. Personnel being reassigned from OCONUS to bases in the CONUS do not require SA/LW qualification. They receive qualification training at their gaining base, if required.

2.9.3. The unit scheduler for personnel requesting qualification training for a PCS assignment is responsible for verifying the individual's requirement to receive training before scheduling them for a class. **(T-3)** The goal is for individuals to meet live-fire qualification training standards. If an individual fails to qualify after three attempts, the losing MPS/MPF should contact the gaining command for guidance.

2.9.4. If training is not entered in ARIS, the individual or the individual's unit ensures the DAF Form 522, *Ground Weapons Training Data*, is provided to the MPS/MPF for transfer to the new assignment. During in-processing, the gaining MPS/MPF ensures the DAF Form 522 is given to the member's new unit. See the MPS/MPF for further guidance.

**2.10. SA/LW qualification training for DAF personnel by other than CATM personnel.** There are select circumstances where personnel may receive qualification or other firearms training by personnel not identified as CATM instructors.

2.10.1. Qualification training for personnel by sister services for deployment. In short notice or unanticipated circumstances, personnel may have no alternative other than to report to deployment training conducted by another service (e.g., US Army Power Projection Platform) without prior qualification. This is an exception to policy and only used after all efforts to get the individual qualified by CATM have been exhausted.

2.10.1.1. When personnel report to deployment training conducted by another service under such conditions, training and qualification by the host service may be required. Commanders may use one of two courses of action to offset this shortfall: send CATM personnel to the training location to qualify members, or if not feasible, request approval from AF/A4SO to utilize host service training, qualification courses and training personnel to qualify personnel.

2.10.1.2. If leadership selects the second option above, qualification training must satisfy the training objectives for the appropriate weapon(s) listed in DAFMAN 31-131 V2. **(T-1)**

2.10.1.3. Other service qualifications under these conditions are only valid for the specific mission requiring the training and may not be used for home station arming of personnel.

2.10.1.4. Route request for sister service qualification via DAF Form 679, *Department of the Air Force Publication Compliance Item Waiver Request/Approval*, through the AFSFC and courtesy copy the MAJCOM/SF, then to AF/A4SO for approval or disapproval.

2.10.2. Qualification training for personnel permanently assigned to sister services. Personnel permanently assigned to sister service installations and directly supporting joint service missions, such as Tactical Air Control Party or Air Support Operations Center personnel, are authorized to use sister service approved qualification courses conducted by host service personnel as their primary method of accomplishing qualification training during their tour of duty. Units with

personnel receiving qualification training from other services must arrange to have their qualification data entered into ARIS. **(T-2)** The CATM section at the installation providing administrative support is responsible for updating qualification data submitted by the unit in ARIS. This ensures a record of qualification is visible within in the Air Force system.

2.10.2.1. Other service qualifications cannot be used to arm personnel for home station arming missions on DAF installations. Individuals who are reassigned from a sister service installation to a DAF installation must complete DAF qualification training to remain qualified. **(T-2)**

2.10.2.2. Units using this option must ensure individuals receive combat mindset training during qualification following the guidance in DAFMAN 31-131 V1. **(T-1)**

2.10.3. Qualification training for AFOSI agents attending US Air Force Special Investigations Academy (USAFSIA). HQ AFOSI manages use of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) employed certified instructors and task certified AFOSI agents to ensure enough personnel to support the USAFSIA firearms training program. The following paragraphs apply only to training conducted at the USAFSIA.

2.10.3.1. USAFSIA/CC may authorize FLETC employed firearms instructors who have successfully completed the Firearms Instructor Training Program and Law Enforcement Instructor Training Program to perform lead instructor, tower operator, assistant instructor, and firing line official duties for DAF qualification training of AFOSI students/agents on the AFOSI issued military handgun, and the M4 series carbine. FLETC firearms instructors must successfully complete the live-fire qualification course before conducting Basic Arms Training (BAT) and annually thereafter. **(T-1)** These personnel will be trained and evaluated by a task certified CATM instructor whenever possible.

2.10.3.2. FLETC firearms instructors follow the guidance in this instruction as well as the guidance in the appropriate chapter of DAFMAN 31-131 V1, while conducting DAF qualification training to trainees. FLETC firearms instructors use DAF approved lesson plans for this training.

2.10.3.3. FLETC firearms instructors that meet the requirements in **Paragraph 2.10.3.1** may certify AFOSI agents to perform assistant instructor and/or firing line official duties at the USAFSIA following the guidance in DAFMAN 31-131 V1.

2.10.3.4. If CATM maintenance support is unavailable (lack of assigned CATM personnel or not reasonably available at a nearby installation), USAFSIA/CC may approve use of the FLETC Gunsmith Shop to inspect and repair student/agent DAF SA/LW. Inspect and repair SA/LW using guidance provided in DAFMAN 31-131 V1 and the applicable Air Force Technical Order (AFTO). When FLETC gunsmiths perform inspections or maintenance, they will provide a copy of the inspection report and/or repair documents to the DAF office designated by USAFSIA/CC for entry into ARIS. **(T-2)** All inspections and repairs must be entered into ARIS on the AFTO Form 105, *Inspection Maintenance Firing Data for Ground Weapons*. **(T-2)**

2.10.3.5. Upon completion of BAT training, FLETC instructors will provide graduating AFOSI agents with a hardcopy DAF Form 522 to provide to the servicing CATM section at their first duty station. The gaining CATM section will enter the qualification information into ARIS.

2.10.4. Qualification training for Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Series 0083, *Civilian Police Officers (CPO)*, Military Law Enforcement SEI 3LE/L3, and SF Investigators attending Veteran Affairs (VA) Law Enforcement Training Center (VALETC). AFSFC/CC manages use of

VALETC employed certified instructors to ensure enough personnel to support the firearms training program. The following paragraphs apply only to training conducted at VALETC.

2.10.4.1. When sufficient numbers of CATM or civilian equivalent personnel are not available, AFSFC/CC may authorize VALETC employed firearms instructors who have successfully completed the instructional development (ISD), firearms instructor (FAI) and long gun instructor (LGI) courses to perform lead instructor, tower operator, assistant instructor, and firing line official duties for qualification training of DAF CPO and SF Law Enforcement students on the handgun and rifle/carbine Basic Defender Qualification Course (BDQC). VALETC firearms instructors must successfully complete live-fire qualification on the course(s) before conducting training and annually thereafter. These personnel will be trained and evaluated by a task certified CATM instructor whenever possible.

2.10.4.2. VALETC firearms instructors follow the guidance in this instruction as well as the guidance in the applicable chapter of DAFMAN 31-131 V1 when conducting DAF qualification training. VALETC firearms instructors use DAF approved lesson plans for this training. VALETC firearms instructor certifications will be reviewed annually as part of curriculum review conducted by the AFSFC. **(T-2)**

2.10.4.3. Upon completion of BDQC training, VALETC instructors will provide graduates with a DAF Form 522. Graduates will provide the servicing CATM section with a copy of the DAF Form 522. The gaining CATM section will enter the qualification information into ARIS.

2.10.5. Qualification-training by sister service instructors assigned to a CATM section. The Security Forces/Combat Arms organizational commander must approve the use of sister service instructors assigned to a CATM section. Use the following paragraphs when sister service personnel conduct qualification-training:

2.10.5.1. Sister service personnel must be a graduate of a service specific SA/LW instructor certification course.

2.10.5.2. Sister service personnel must meet all instructor certification training procedures outlined in DAFMAN 31-131 V1.

2.10.5.3. CATM Section Chief will create a localized training plan to teach sister service personnel DAF specific processes and TTPs. This training will be documented and maintained in the sister service instructor's training folder. **(T-2)**

2.10.5.4. Sister service personnel are not authorized to perform CATM Section Chief, CATM trainer, or Instructor Supervisor duties regardless of rank. **(T-1)**

2.10.6. Qualification-training by Defender Weapons Trainer (DWT).

2.10.6.1. Security Forces commanders may implement a DWT program within their unit.

2.10.6.2. DWTs are Security Forces' noncommissioned officers, appointed in writing by the commander, who have completed the AF Job Qualification Standard (AFJQS) DWT, and is lead instructor certified by the CATM Trainer on the Rifle/Carbine and or Handgun Defender Qualification Course (DQC).

2.10.6.3. Once certified, DWTs may qualify Security Forces personnel only on the M4/M4A1 carbine and M18 handgun. DWTs operate in the same manner as CATM instructors and receive annual instructor evaluations thereafter following the guidance in DAFMAN 31-131 V1.

2.10.6.4. Document qualification training on a DAF Form 710, *Combat Arms Training Record* and provide it to the servicing CATM section to upload in ARIS.

### **2.11. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR).**

2.11.1. Personnel may not fire any qualification courses or other service's qualification programs for the sole purpose of obtaining the expert ribbon. Award the SAEMR to the following personnel:

2.11.1.1. Personnel who live-fire qualify with an expert score on the Pistol/Handgun AFQC, Rifle/Carbine AFQC, Rifle/Carbine AFBQC, BAT, BDQC, DQC, and meet all course objectives outlined in DAFMAN 31-131 V2.

2.11.1.2. Personnel who achieve an expert score (through live fire) on another service's qualification program. **Note:** AF/A4SO must pre-approve this course for personnel and or units and be physically assigned to another branch of the military. **(T-2)**

2.11.1.3. Personnel who live-fire qualify with an expert score on the rifle or handgun orientation training and meet all other course objectives identified in DAFMAN 31-131 V2.

2.11.2. The DAF Form 522 is the basis for the SAEMR award. The individual awarded the SAEMR is responsible for bringing the DAF Form 522 to the MPS/MPF Awards and Decorations section. The MPS/MPF enters the award on the individual's automated personnel record.

2.11.3. DAFMAN 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures* prescribes authority for the award of this ribbon. DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of United States Air Force and United States Space Force Personnel*, shows proper wear of the SAEMR. One Bronze Service Star can be awarded in addition to the SAEMR when an individual qualifies as expert with both the rifle and a handgun. Only one award per weapon type (rifle or handgun) is made no matter how many times the individual qualifies as expert.

**2.12. Virtual Training Systems (VTS).** VTS (firearm simulators) are efficient and time effective tools to provide real world training at the unit level in the following areas: use of force, theater or command specific rules of engagement, tactical and judgmental scenarios. VTS are beneficial for all levels of marksmanship to include remedial training, and personnel are encouraged to utilize VTS to practice marksmanship fundamentals prior to qualification training.

2.12.1. Units requiring proficiency and sustainment training (e.g., AFFORGEN) are encouraged to use VTS. Additionally, units should use VTS to mitigate training gaps, such as non-availability of full-distance rifle and machine gun ranges, as well as other problems with inadequate training facilities.

2.12.2. VTS firearm simulators must meet the capabilities requirements outlined by AF/A4S. Units may obtain these requirements from the CATM SharePoint® site. AF/A4S and the AFSFC will not be able to support systems that do not meet these requirements with operation and training guidance.

### **2.13. Blanks and Close Combat Mission Capability Kit (CCMCK).**

2.13.1. Unless specified in a training program personnel are not required to maintain firearms qualification strictly to participate in blank or dye-marking training. See DAFMAN 31-131 V3 for more information.

2.13.2. CATM should assist unit trainers in on-the-job training task certifying bird/wildlife aircraft strike hazard (BASH) personnel using blanks operationally. BASH personnel are not

certified until they have completed training as outlined in the approved local BASH plan. **Note:** Individuals who carry a weapon with ammunition (e.g., EOD, BASH, large mammal removal or pest control agencies), other than marking cartridges/blanks, which fires any type of projectile (including shot) must complete the appropriate qualification course outlined in DAFMAN 31-131 V2 prior to carrying the weapon for official duty. **(T-0)**

**2.14. General Exception.** Individuals stationed OCONUS or areas within a country where customs, laws or international agreements make it impossible to receive firearms training are not required to have firearms training for the duration of the assignment, not to exceed 24-months. This provision does not preclude MAJCOMs from maintaining qualification intervals at established temporary duty (TDY) locations. **Note:** Individual SA/LW qualifications must be current prior to being granted this 24-month exception. **(T-1)** This 24-month exception is the total length of qualification, and no extensions will be granted (individuals cannot be qualified longer than 24-months). **(T-0)** **Note:** Personnel must complete training required by international agreement and or host nation law as applicable.

**2.15. Qualification Extensions.** When mission requirements or small arms range limitations or both prevent CATM personnel from conducting qualification training, organizations may use the following options to extend qualifications. Individuals must be currently qualified (not past the expiration date on the DAF Form 522) on the weapon and course to receive an extension. **(T-1)** Personnel on an extension are not permitted to deploy to a contingency operation, combat zone or designated hostile fire area that requires weapon qualification. **(T-2)** Extensions do not change the requirement for firearms familiarization (classroom academic / unit led) and annual use of force training in non-deployed circumstances. The total length of qualification, including all extensions, cannot exceed 24-months from the date of qualification training under any circumstance. **(T-0)** Unit training sections ensure qualification extensions are posted on the individual's DAF Form 522.

2.15.1. Squadron Commander Extensions. The authorizing official (arming authority) for the squadron may grant a one-time qualification extension of up to 180-calendar days per qualification event. **(T-3)**

2.15.1.1. Commanders may grant a 30-day qualification extension to individuals who were qualified at the time they reported for training but failed the course. This extension cannot cause the individual's qualification to exceed 12-months. This 30-day extension gives commanders some flexibility in meeting home station arming requirements. **Note:** This provision is not automatic. It can only be administered on a case-by-case basis with the written approval of the individual's unit commander/designated official. This option does not permit personnel to deploy to high threat areas.

2.15.1.2. If a person fails to qualify during the same day re-fire, the person is considered unqualified at the time, and they are not authorized an extension.

2.15.2. Installation Level Extensions. Installation commanders, senior-level Air Force Reserve and ANG commanders may grant a one-time qualification extension of up to 12 continuous months for their affected personnel. **(T-2)** Installation and squadron commander extensions may not exceed a total of 12 continuous months when combined. **(T-0)** **Note:** MAJCOM authorizing officials may approve qualification extensions of 12 continuous months following the same guidance as installation level extensions. Consider the following before granting lengthy extensions.

2.15.2.1. The number of individuals requiring an extension, the extension effects, specific arming requirements, and impact on the mission.

2.15.2.2. The reason for the extension, corrective action, compensatory measures, and get-well date.

2.15.2.3. The granting authority documents extensions in memorandum format, ensuring the type(s) of firearm(s), courses of training, duration of extension, and authorizing documents are listed.

## 2.16. General Requirements.

2.16.1. Completion of qualification training does not authorize an individual to be armed and is only one step in the process commanders use to authorize arming of their assigned personnel. See DAFI 31-117, *Arming and the Use of Force*.

2.16.2. Commanders follow the guidance in this instruction and DAFI 31-117 to ensure personnel meet all requirements before allowing them to be scheduled for training, armed, or to have access to SA/LW. Commanders are responsible for ensuring their personnel scheduled for any type of training are following the Gun Control Act of 1968 (18 USC § 922(d)(9) and (g)(9)/Lautenberg Amendment), as implemented by DoDI 6400.06, *DoD Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Abuse Involving DoD Military and Certain Affiliated Personnel*. **(T-0)** CATM personnel do not verify compliance or complete required documentation concerning the Gun Control Act, this is a unit responsibility.

2.16.3. Qualification training culminates in an evaluation by certified CATM instructors that ensures students demonstrate their ability to employ the weapon safely and effectively.

2.16.4. Due to resource limitations and limited training availability, non-essential training is prohibited. **(T-2)** The DAF does not conduct familiarization training. This includes activities such as weapons demonstrations, morale shoots, firepower demonstrations, training of civilian community organizations, and allowing non-DoD personnel to fire government SA/LW or ammunition. **(T-2) Exception:** This does not include qualification or sustainment training of personnel contracted by DAF who require qualification and arming as part of their contract. Furthermore, this policy does not include qualification/sustainment training or arming of personnel employed by the State or contracted by the State to provide security for the ANG as part of their contract.

2.16.5. The unit commander requesting qualification training must ensure personnel are within 12-months of the arrive in country date. **(T-1)** When a unit scheduler (e.g., Unit Deployment Manager, Unit Training Manager, training section) uploads a student in ARIS, they are validating the individual is within the specified period of their AFFORGEN cycle or have a home station arming requirement prior to scheduling an individual for qualification training. **(T-2)**

2.16.6. Personnel with an AF Form 469, *Duty Limiting Condition Report*, excluding them from live weapons firing or range duties, are not permitted to participate in training. Personnel who report for weapons training must be able to operate in an environment of hazardous materials, noise, vibration, airborne and chemical irritants, and toxins as well as perform all physical requirements, to include assuming all firing positions, unassisted. Personnel are not permitted to cover their non-shooting eye with patches, cloth, or other material to control eye dominance problems. Personnel on a temporary physical profile (e.g., wearing a cast or leg brace) may be

permitted to live-fire if the injury does not prevent them from meeting course objectives, proper firing positions, or detracts from safe weapons handling.

2.16.7. Only task certified CATM personnel (3P0X1B or DoD civilian equivalent) or others identified in this instruction are authorized to conduct qualification and or orientation training. **(T-1)**

2.16.8. If live-fire cannot be accomplished the same day, students must complete qualification training evaluations (live-fire) within 30-days (ARC members have two Unit Training Assemblies (UTAs) to meet this requirement) of completion of mechanical and classroom marksmanship training (this also applies to remedial training). **(T-3)** If more than 30-days (two UTAs for ARC) have passed since the original class date, the individual re-accomplishes the entire training program, including live-fire on all required tables and phases.

2.16.9. All qualifications expire on the last day of the month.

2.16.10. The CATM SharePoint® site is the official site for current guidance, training materials, approved commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) clearing barrels, and authorized SA/LW accessories.

2.16.11. AFOSI Agents reporting for qualification training may be in agent or casual civilian attire.

2.16.12. Changes to the BAT Course are authorized when requested by HQ AFOSI, *Directorate of Strategic Programs and Requirements (AFOSI/XR)*. Changes are then coordinated and approved by AF/A4S. AFOSI makes any specialized targets (not already used for normal qualification courses), special equipment required for the course and SA/LW available to CATM to conduct instructor training, maintenance, and qualification training.

2.16.13. Agents authorized by the AFOSI commander (or designee) to carry a privately owned firearm (i.e., handgun) for official duty will qualify annually on the BAT Course with the AFOSI government issued handgun(s) as outlined in this instruction. **(T-0)**

2.16.13.1. Once qualified with the AFOSI government-issued handgun, agents who choose to carry an authorized privately owned firearm (i.e., handgun) will complete the mandatory live-fire sustainment training (i.e., proficiency firing) on the BAT Course with the privately owned firearm (i.e., handgun) before being authorized to carry the privately owned firearm for official duty. **(T-1)**  
**Exception:** If the privately owned firearm is the same make and model (regardless of generation) as the government-issued handgun additional live-fire training is not required.

2.16.13.2. Document training within the AFOSI 173, *Privately Owned Weapon Authorization and Registration*, as prescribed by AFOSI Manual (AFOSIMAN) 71-113, *Weapons, Arming, Search and Seizure, Apprehension, Arrest, and Use of Force*.

2.16.14. Personnel who are not AFOSI agents but have a mission requirement to carry a concealed handgun (e.g., credentialed Security Forces Investigators, Armed Transfer Agents) are assigned the current service handgun (i.e., M18) as their primary duty weapon. They must qualify on the Handgun Basic Arms Training (BAT) Course using the authorized concealed carry holster. **(T-1)**  
**Exception:** When tasked to deploy, they qualify on the handgun AFQC/DQC. Once they have completed initial BAT Course qualification with their commander's approval, they continue to qualify using BAT until they are no longer performing this duty. **Note:** Personnel reporting for CATM training who are authorized concealed carry must present documentation from the authorizing official to receive concealed carry training (e.g., a properly completed and current

DAF Form 523, *USAF Authorization to Bear Firearms*, indicating concealed carry meets this requirement). **(T-3)**

2.16.15. Staff personnel assigned at the Group level and above, who would normally maintain firearms qualification by virtue of their AFSC, are not required to complete qualification training. **(T-2)** However, the staff agency director may establish qualification training requirements.

2.16.16. Personnel with individually assigned SA/LW (e.g., rifles/carbines/handguns with adjustable sights,) or assigned weapon replaced or having major repairs affecting the sight setting (e.g., replaced barrel, slide, upper receiver, sights) will be provided the opportunity to zero their assigned weapon prior to being armed with it. **(T-2) Note:** Security Forces personnel will not be armed at home station with personally assigned SA/LW with adjustable sites, without completing zeroing on that specific weapon. **(T-2) Note:** This is highly recommended for deployed locations, at the discretion of the deployed commander.

2.16.16.1. CATM sections forecast for these munitions with guidance provided in DAFMAN 21-209 V1 and the GMAT. CATM ensures the range and certified unit personnel are available to conduct this operation. The GMAT identify the maximum authorizations approved for use by functional areas.

2.16.16.2. If live fire is not possible, commanders may authorize the use of an approved bore sighting device to accomplish zero of individually assigned SA/LW. This technique should be used as a last resort.

2.16.17. Where applicable, the DAF has adopted US Army Field Manuals and training circulars as instructor guides and references. CATM sections use them and other sister service training publications as a guide for conducting training. However, DAF publications and policies take precedence when there are conflicts in guidance or procedures.

2.16.18. Personnel are not authorized to fire government procured ammunition, including COTS procured items, using privately owned weapons. **Exception:** When authorized as outlined in DoDD 5210.56, personnel may use government procured ammunition in authorized privately owned firearms when performing official duties.

2.16.18.1. The DAF procures ground ammunition to support specific military training and operational missions. DAF ground munitions must meet specific performance and quality control requirements to ensure they will function safely.

2.16.18.2. Personnel are not authorized to fire non-government procured (privately owned) ammunition using government SA/LW. Non-government procured ammunition may not meet military specifications and their use could result in injury or death to personnel or damage to government equipment.

2.16.19. Instructors may provide additional rounds during the grouping and zero phases and practice orders before the student attempts to qualify. Identify additional rounds on the DAF Form 710.

2.16.20. When a squadron earns CATM manpower (e.g., RED HORSE and Special Tactics Squadron), other than the installation/host CATM section, they are authorized to perform CATM instructor duties for their respective organization/squadron and may assist the host CATM section to maintain instructor proficiency. **Note:** An MOA/MOU may need to be established to document

issues of general understanding between two or more parties that do or do not involve reimbursement. The host CATM section retains overall program management for the installation.

2.16.21. Personnel must be live-fire qualified before participating in any non-qualification live-fire training, this includes training provided by DAF, sister service, contractor, civilian entities, or any other agency. **(T-2) Exception:** Air Task Force and Deployable Combat Wing commanders may authorize their personnel to participate in non-qualification live-fire training for rifle and or handgun prior to the culminating qualification event to train and exercise together throughout the deployment (e.g., AFFORGEN) cycle. **Note:** This does not eliminate the need for classroom instruction and or the requirement for commanders to follow the guidance in DAFI 31-117 to ensure personnel meet all suitability and additional requirements before allowing them to participate in training or have access to SA/LW.

### 2.17. General Individual Equipment Requirements.

2.17.1. The *Authorized Small Arms and Light Weapons (SA/LW) Accessories List* and the additional equipment items in the applicable TO are the only authorized items for use on SA/LW. **(T-1)**

2.17.2. SA/LW accessories, such as aiming devices, require the individual to complete academic instruction, zero, and live-fire qualification using the device, before they are authorized to use or mount it to a weapon operationally. Refer to the applicable qualification training program for each weapon in DAFMAN 31-131 V2 for more information. If an individual is currently qualified on the weapon/course and receives a requirement for a new accessory, they are only required to complete academic training/evaluation, zero, and the live fire qualification portion of the course of fire that is applicable to the device. The original qualification expiration date remains unchanged, but CATM annotates the remarks section of the DAF Form 522 in ARIS to indicate that the individual is qualified to use the new accessory (e.g., AN/PEQ-15).

2.17.3. The *Authorized Small Arms and Light Weapons (SA/LW) Accessories List* includes approved holsters for use within DAF. Personnel will only train, qualify, and use an authorized holster, whether the holster is part of their field gear or concealed wear. **Exception:** AFOSI/XR directs holster types for AFOSI personnel for operational use; however, AFOSI personnel will use a strong side hip mounted holster during qualification training. Agents receiving training provide CATM personnel the opportunity to become familiar with the holsters they will use for live fire. This ensures range officials are familiar with the agents' equipment and to provide appropriate range commands. Instructors should accomplish this during classroom training. **Note:** AFOSI units are not required to purchase holsters for CATM or loan them for an extended time. When unit commanders authorize individuals to use more than one type of holster, CATM uses the procedures in the following paragraphs to qualify them.

2.17.3.1. Individuals will live fire with their primary holster unless prohibited. Individuals will not complete live fire using shoulder or cross draw holsters.

2.17.3.2. CATM will include a combination of classroom and range dry-fire training on the proper techniques for drawing the weapon from these types of holsters/carry (personnel will be performance tested on their ability to draw from a cross draw/shoulder safely and correctly) without ammunition in the weapon. **(T-1) Exception:** AFOSI agents, Security Forces investigators and Security Forces Armed Transfer Agents utilize their standard concealed duty holster and are

authorized to live-fire using a cross draw/concealed weapon on the firing line. CATM is authorized to live fire using a cross draw/concealed weapon only while qualifying on the BAT course of fire.

2.17.3.3. Document qualification and holster type(s) in the remarks section of the DAF Form 522.

2.17.4. Personnel will bring a protective (gas) mask to qualification training when a protective mask is required. **(T-2)** CATM sections do not maintain protective masks and they are issued through the installation readiness section.

**2.18. Competitions/Courses.** Commanders may approve the use of government owned SA/LW and authorized munitions for personnel to participate in military or civilian or both shooting competitions and courses. DAFMAN 21-209 V1 and the GMAT provides allowances for matches conducted consistent with DAFI 34-114, *Fitness, Sports, and World Class Athlete Program*, and other competitions.

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**Attachment 1****GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

18 USC § 922(d)(9) and (g)(9), *The Domestic Violence Amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968* (“the Lautenberg Amendment”)

DoDD 2311.01, *DoD Law of War Program*, 02 July 2020

DoDD 5210.56, *Arming and the Use of Force*, 18 November 2016

DAFI 31-117, *Arming and Use of Force*, 10 December 2024

DAFI 34-114, *Fitness, Sports, and World Class Athlete Program*, 15 December 2022

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AFMAN 21-209 Volume 1, *Ground Munitions*, 29 August 2019

AFMAN 21-209 Volume 2, *Demolition Munitions*, 25 April 2018

AFOSIMAN 71-113, *Weapons, Arming, Search and Seizure, Apprehension, Arrest, and Use of Force*, 18 May 2023

***Prescribed Forms***

DAF Form 522, *Ground Weapons Training Data*

DAF Form 710, *Combat Arms Training Record*

***Adopted Forms***

DAF Form 679, *Department of the Air Force Publication Compliance Item Waiver Request/Approval*

DAF Form 523, *USAF Authorization to Bear Firearms*

DAF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*

AF Form 469, *Duty Limiting Condition Report*

AFTO Form 105, *Inspection Maintenance Firing Data for Ground Weapons*

***Abbreviations and Acronyms***

**AETC**—Air Education and Training Command

**AFCFM**—Air Force Career Field Manager

**AFFORGEN**—Air Force Force Generation

**AFI**—Air Force Instruction

**AFIMSC**—Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center

**AFLCMC**—Air Force Life Cycle Management Center

**AFMAN**—Air Force Manual

**AFMC**—Air Force Materiel Command

**AFOSI**—Air Force Office of Special Investigations

**AFOSIMAN**—Air Force Office of Special Investigations Manual

**AFSFC**—Air Force Security Forces Center

**AFPD**—Air Force Policy Directive

**AFQC**—Air Force Qualification Course

**AFSC**—Air Force Specialty Code

**AFSFC**—Air Force Security Forces Center

**AFTO**—Air Force Technical Order

**ANG**—Air National Guard

**ARIS**—Automated Readiness Information System

**BAT**—Basic Arms Training

**CCMD**—Combatant Command

**CONUS**—Contiguous United States

**COTS**—Commercial Off the Shelf

**DAFI**—Department of the Air Force Instruction

**DAFMAN**—Department of the Air Force Manual

**DCS**—Deputy Chief of Staff

**DD**—Department of Defense Form

**DoD**—Department of Defense

**DoDD**—Department of Defense Directive

**DoDI**—Department of Defense Instruction  
**DWT**—Defender Weapons Trainer  
**FLETC**—Federal Law Enforcement Training Center  
**GMAT**—Ground Munitions Authorization Tables  
**ICE**—Individual Combat Equipment  
**MAJCOM**—Major Command  
**MPF**—Military Personnel Flight  
**MPS**—Military Personnel Section  
**NCO**—Noncommissioned Officer  
**OCONUS**—Outside Contiguous United States  
**OPR**—Office of Primary Responsibility  
**PCS**—Permanent Change of Station  
**PPC**—Personnel Processing Code  
**ROTC**—Reserve Officer Training Corps  
**SA/LW**—Small Arms and Light Weapons  
**SAEMR**—Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon  
**SMC**—Shoot, Move and Communicate  
**START**—Services Tools for Activity Reporting & Tracking  
**TCCC**—Tactical Combat Casualty Care  
**TDY**—Temporary Duty  
**TO**—Technical Order  
**UQ**—Unqualified  
**USAFA**—United States Air Force Academy  
**USAFSIA**—United States Air Force Special Investigations Academy  
**USAF**—United States Air Force  
**USC**—United States Code  
**US**—United States  
**UTA**—Unit Training Assembly  
**UTC**—Unit Type Code  
**VALETC**—Veterans Affairs Law Enforcement Training Center  
**VTS**—Virtual Training System  
**WOTS**—Warrant Officer Training School

*Office Symbols*

**AF/A4**—Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff, Logistics, Engineering and Force Protection

**AF/A4L**—Director of Logistics

**AF/A4P**—Director of Resource Integration

**AF/A4S**—Director of Security Forces

**AF/JAO**—Operations and International Law Directorate

**AF/A4SO**—AF/A4S, Operations Division

**AETC**—Air Education and Training Command

*Terms*

**Armed**—A person equipped with a firearm that has a live round of ammunition in a magazine inserted into the firearm, chamber, or cylinder.

**Carry**—The carrying of a weapon, loaded and ready for employment, on one's person. Authority to carry may include the retention, transport, and storage to and from the work place to domicile. (DoDD 5210.56)

**CATM Section Chief**—Used for the Senior Noncommissioned Officer and occasionally Noncommissioned Officer who is responsible for installation's CATM section and the SF Armory.

**Certification**—A formal indication of an individual's ability to perform a task to required standards.

**Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS)**—Commercial items that require no unique government modifications or maintenance over the life cycle of the product to meet the needs of the procuring agency.

**Contingency Operations**—A military operation that is either designated by the Secretary of Defense as a contingency operation or becomes a contingency operation as a matter of law (10 USC 101[a][13]). It is a military operation that: a. is designated by the Secretary of Defense as an operation in which an individual of the Armed Forces are or may become involved in military actions, operations, or hostilities against an enemy of the United States or against an opposing force; b. is created by definition of law. Under 10 USC 101 (a)(13)(b), a contingency operation exists if a military operation results in the (1) call up to (or retention on) active-duty of an individual of the uniformed Services under certain enumerated statutes (10 USC Sections 688, 12301(a), 12302, 12304, 12305, 12406, or 331-335); and (2) the call up to (or retention on) active-duty individuals of the uniformed Services under other (non-enumerated) statutes during war or national emergency declared by the President or Congress.

**Contingency**—A situation requiring military operations in response to natural disasters, terrorists, subversives, or as otherwise directed by appropriate authority to protect United States interests. (JP 5-0)

**Deployment**—The movement of forces into and out of an operational area. See also deployment order; deployment planning; prepare to deploy order. (JP 3-35)

**DoD Civilian Equivalent Qualification**—A DoD civilian who has graduated from the AFSC awarding Small Arms or CATM Technical School.

**Firearm**—Defined in Section 921 of Title 18, U.S.C.

**Firing Line Official**—The assigned individual(s) on the firing platform who enforces safety procedures, policies and coaches shooters during range training.

**Firing Position**—The point or location where a weapon, other than demolitions, is placed for firing. (For demolitions, the firing position is the point or location where the firing crew is located during demolition operations).

**Functional Manager**—The office of primary responsibility for a particular Air Force specialty. Examples: AF/A4S for Security Forces; AF/A4C for civil engineers; AF/A1 for personnel and education and training specialists.

**High Threat Area**—Deployment location where the theater commander requires all personnel be fully qualified to participate in the force protection mission based upon the threat condition. Deployment requirements are usually identified in the deployment tasking order.

**In-Garrison**—Performing duties at home station or on the installation at a non-deployed location.

**Proficiency Training**—Additional unit-level training available to personnel to increase their skills, competence, and knowledge on weapons they are qualified on and have a ground-munitions training account.

**Qualification Training**—The minimum training and evaluation necessary for personnel to be considered qualified to employ small arms and light weapons (SA/LW) for the purpose of armed duty.

**Range**—An area reserved and normally equipped for qualification/practice in SA/LW delivery and/or shooting at targets.

**Security Forces/CATM Organizational Commander**—The unit commander of the organization performing the base CATM function or the unit CATM function. Usually the Security Forces squadron commander.

**Small Arms and Light Weapons**—Small arms and light weapons are defined as man-portable weapons made or modified to military specifications for use as lethal instruments of war that expel a shot, bullet, or projectile by action of an explosive. Small arms are broadly categorized as those weapons intended for use by individual members of armed or security forces. They include handguns, rifles and carbines, submachine guns, and light machine guns. Light weapons are broadly categorized as those weapons designed for use by two or three members of armed or security forces serving as a crew, although a single person may use some. They include heavy machine guns, hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers, portable anti-aircraft guns, portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles, man-portable launchers of missile and rocket systems and mortars.

**Sustainment Training**—Career Field Manager, Air Staff Functional, or MAJCOM Functional directed training to maintain, support, and prolong the knowledge and skills acquired from qualification training and have a ground-munitions training account.

**Tower Operator**—The person who monitors the entire range at all times, paying particular attention to the firing line.

**Trainer**—A trained and qualified person who teaches personnel to perform specific tasks through on-the-job training methods. Also, equipment that the trainer uses to teach personnel specified tasks.