DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND
102 MCNAIR DRIVE
FORT MONROE VIRGINIA 23651-1047

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATTG-II (350)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

APR 13 2005

SUBJECT: TRADOC Policy on Weapons Immersion Training

1. **References.**

a. AR 190-11, Physical Security of Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives, with change 1, dated 12 February 1998.

b. AR 190-13, The Army Physical Security Program, 30 September 1993.

c. AR 190-51, Security of Unclassified Army Property (Sensitive and Non-sensitive), 30 September 1993.

d. DA PAM 190-51, Risk Analysis for Army Property, 30 September 1993.

e. AR 710-2, Supply Policy Below the National Level, 25 February 2004.

f. DA PAM 710-2-1, Using Unit Supply System (Manual Procedures), 31 December 1997.

g. AR 735-11-2, Reporting Supply Discrepancies, 6 August 2001.

h. AR 385-10, Army Safety Program, 29 March 2000.

i. AR 385-63, Range Safety, 19 June 2003.

2. **Background**. The negligent discharge (ND) of weapons can result in the needless wounding or death of Soldiers and civilians. Weapons immersion training is designed to eliminate casualties from negligent discharges by placing Initial Entry Training (IET) Soldiers in an environment closely approximating contemporary warfighting environments, such as Afghanistan and Iraq, and by instilling in Soldiers in training the skills needed to properly handle their weapons.

3. **Policy.**

a. The purpose of weapons immersion requires the MACOM to develop specific criteria and standards for protection of arms, ammunition, and explosives used in training. Immersion training will prepare Soldiers to become familiar with weapons handling procedures prior to their arrival at their first unit of assignment.

b. This policy prescribes the minimum criteria for the security of weapons and blank ammunition in the custody of Soldiers in training. The criteria outlined in this policy, under normal circumstances, will provide adequate protection against loss or theft of weapons and blank ammunition at all Initial Entry Training (IET) locations. However, the threat or particular characteristics of a given location may require the implementation of additional security measures.

c. Weapons immersion training will take place as early as possible during the training cycle.

d. Training will focus on safe weapons handling, orientation, proper loading, and clearing procedures prior to and upon exiting/entering a building, and situational awareness at all times.

e. Prudent security measures will be used to promote the security of weapons and to assist the Soldiers to whom weapons are issued. Paragraph 4-1b(1) of reference 1.a. states that (1) each weapon issued for training, operations, or any other reason will be carried at all times on the person of the individual to whom the weapon is issued, or (2) the weapon will be properly safeguarded and secured. If the weapon is properly issued, the security of the weapon becomes the responsibility of the Soldier to whom the weapon is issued. There is no requirement to store the weapon in an arms room, class V container, nor are armed guards required. Additionally, the regulation provides latitude for those short periods of time a Soldier might need assistance in securing his or her weapon by allowing a battle buddy or other responsible person to watch the weapon for him or her.

4. **TRADOC Senior Mission Commanders will:**

a. Establish and enforce procedures for securing weapons and ammunition based on an assessment of the threat, training objectives, training locations, and the duration of the training.

b. Ensure police respond to an alarm or call for assistance within 15 minutes or less. This response can be telephonic, verbal, message form, or radio. The response force, including fire and ambulance, should assume the unit requesting response is under attack or there is a serious incident involving a weapon. The response force will be routinely exercised.

c. Risk analyses and vulnerability assessments.

(1) Ensure subordinate units conduct a risk analysis and vulnerability assessment before weapons are issued to Soldiers.

(2) Ensure the risks posed by insider personnel, criminals, or terrorists are acceptable and that reasonable measures are in place to mitigate identified vulnerability.

(3) Ensure the risk analyses and vulnerability assessments are reviewed and validated at the beginning of each training cycle.

(4) Ensure a new risk analysis and vulnerability assessment will be accomplished annually, during the second quarter of the fiscal year, or when the HQDA or MACOM assessed or postulated threat changes.

(5) Ensure copies of risk analyses and vulnerability assessment are maintained on file until a new risk analysis and vulnerability assessment is accomplished.

5. **Commanders**.

a. Ensure a system of supervisory checks is established to ensure all personnel comply with security procedures.

b. Designate barracks facilities used in the weapons immersion training program as restricted areas in accordance with reference 1.b.

c. Ensure access to barracks facilities and platoon bays by unauthorized persons is strictly controlled.

d. Ensure necessary and appropriate physical security measures to mitigate the risks are in place. These should include such measures as locked doors, active patrolling by security forces, security lighting at entry points, and the removal or trimming of shrubbery.

e. Ensure unit leaders do not inadvertently or deliberately separate a Soldier from his or her weapon except under specified or emergency situations. Unit SOPs will include specific instructions delineating security requirements for situations when a Soldier may be separated from his or her weapon. These situations may include, but are not limited to, illness, religious services, post exchange, financial institutions, i.e., banks and credit unions, post office, and on-post public schools, Chapels, Troop medical Clinics (TMC), Hospitals, misconduct, psychological problems, recreational activities, ceremonies, and periods of personal hygiene. The weapon will be returned to the arms room when a Soldier is on pass, leave, or if the Soldier is incarcerated or hospitalized.

6. **Weapons and blank ammunition issue**. There are two acceptable procedures for issuing weapons and blank ammunition to Soldiers. These are:

a. Soldiers sign for their assigned weapon, magazine, and blank ammunition directly from the Armorer in accordance with reference 1.a.

b. The issuance of the weapons and ammunition will be recorded on a hand receipt. The Armorer will issue each weapon to each Soldier using a weapons sign-out form or hand-receipt and will receive the DA Form 3749 (Weapons Receipt) from each

Soldier. The weapons receipt card should be returned to the Armorer once the weapon is issued to the Soldier. The First Sergeant will maintain a copy of the Master Authorization List (MAL) for all weapons assigned/issued by the Armorer.

7. **Blank ammunition issued to Soldiers in training.**

a. No more than five (5) rounds of blank ammunition will be issued to each Soldier in training at any one time to conduct immersion training. This number facilitates accounting for the rounds without stripping the rounds from the magazine.

b. Blank ammunition will be secured in the same manner as sensitive or pilferable items.

8. **Weapons racks or other security devices used in the barracks.**

a. Weapons racks or other security devices, such as cable locks, may be used in the barracks to assist Soldiers in securing their weapons during non-duty hours.

b. The use of weapons racks or other security devices does not constitute separating the Soldier from his or her weapon if each Soldier is able to quickly get to his or her weapon, positively identify the weapon as their assigned weapon, and physically touch the weapon. Ideally, each Soldier should be able to see his or her weapon from his or her bunk.

c. If weapons racks are used, the racks will be secured to an immovable object. If the weapons racks cannot be secured to an immovable object they will be secured together in such a manner that the racks cannot be separated from one another and their total combined empty weight is 500 pounds or more.

d. High Value Items Security Cages with an empty weight of 500 or more pounds may also be used.

9. **Keys and locks.**

a. Keys and locks used to secure weapons racks in the barracks will be controlled IAW paragraph 3-8 of reference 1.a.

b. If used, cable locks and keys or other locks and keys used by cadre to secure weapons will be hand receipted to the cadre and accounted.

10. **Inventories and physical counts.**

a. A monthly serial number inventory of weapons will be conducted in accordance with reference 1.a.

b. A physical count of weapons and blank ammunition will be accomplished at least twice per day.

c. Inventory, accountability, issue, and turn-in procedures will be delineated in local regulations or unit SOPs to ensure the accountability procedures support the physical security of weapons and ammunition.

11. **Guards, communications, and duress alarms.**

a. The Charge of Quarters or other personnel on duty will have at least two methods of sounding the alarm. Anyone who detects or suspects a criminal act or attack must have the authority to sound the alarm without fear of reprisal.

b. At least two guards (i.e., access control) will be posted in the barracks area where Soldiers are sleeping. These guards will maintain visibility of weapons secured in arms racks and/or the general condition of security within the barracks area. The guards will have a positive means of contacting the Charge of Quarters or the Military Police.

c. A security, guard patrol, or unit personnel will periodically check facilities and barracks areas, especially during hours of darkness, IAW paragraph 3-7 of reference 1.a.

12. **Incidents of lost, stolen, or missing weapons.**

a. A thorough investigation will be made of lost, stolen, or missing weapons or ammunition IAW paragraph 2-9 of reference 1.a.

b. In the event of a lost or missing weapon, a lockdown of all personnel may be appropriate in a given situation in order to use those personnel to look for the lost or missing weapon.

The length of any lockdown of personnel may only be as long as is needed to conduct a thorough search for the lost or missing weapon in areas where it would be logical and reasonable to find it. Lockdowns used as mass punishment are unlawful. Commanders should consult with servicing legal advisors before initiating lockdown procedures if possible and will consult with servicing legal advisors concerning when to terminate the search and lockdown. Legal advisors may also advise when a search authorization from a commander may be required to look into a particular place where a reasonable expectation of privacy may exist for the person who owns or controls that place or thing to be searched

13. **Control of weapons and ammunition during field training or range firing**. Close supervision of Soldiers in training by officers, NCOs, or civilian equivalents can eliminate most security problems in the training area. The security of weapons and ammunition will be monitored closely by all cadre assigned.

14. **Safety and Risk Management**.

a. The safe handling of weapons is a basic Soldier skill and must be taught and reinforced in IET. Leaders must ensure all Soldiers are proficient in the maintenance and safe handling of weapons and ammunition.

b. Before weapons are issued to Soldiers, training will be conducted on proper loading, unloading, clearing, and muzzle orientation.

c. Drill Sergeants and cadre will reinforce safe weapons handling through daily reminders, on the spot corrections, and swift actions to identify unsafe acts.

d. Commanders will establish and enforce policies that ensure magazines are removed from weapons and weapons are cleared prior to entering barracks, administrative buildings, dinning facilities etc.

e. Commanders will establish and enforce strict procedures to address range operations with specific attention to preventing the removal of live ammunition from ranges.

15. This policy is effective upon receipt, with a goal of full implementation when resources become available.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

PAUL D. EATON
Major General, GS
Deputy Chief of Staff
for Operations and Training

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