



RANGE ADVICE NOTE 3/14

See Distribution

Our reference: 28-14-01

Date: 28 Mar 2014

LIVE FIRING ARTILLERY–CHANGE TO SAFETY RULES TO MITIGATE FAULTY AMMUNITION FUZES

Background

1. **What Happened.** Three 155 mm smoke shells prematurely ejected the payload and dropped short on 20 Mar 14 landing inside the Range Danger Area but outside the Safe Target Area (STA) template for the practice on SPTA. HQ SPTA were informed and a safety check firing on artillery was imposed.
2. **Immediate Action to Permit Firing Whilst Investigation was Ongoing.** In order to allow firing to recommence there was a review of safe systems of training with initial findings identifying ammunition failure. Constraints have been put in place on all L132 fuzes and specific batch quarantined, with all subsequent firings of L132 fuzes to be conducted from gun positions with Trajectory Danger Area in place, or from the edge of the impact area. Firing recommenced.

CONTROL MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED.

3. With immediate effect Range Standing Orders are to be amended for all live firing artillery to follow the Defence General Munitions Project Team (DGM PT) advice, which applies to both 155 mm and 105 mm Fuzed L132- Training as follows:
 - a. Where possible conduct all firings from positions at the edge of the impact area.
 - b. A Trajectory Danger Area should be imposed for firings that have to be conducted from positions that are not on the edge of the STA Operations.
 - c. Where practicable a Trajectory Danger Area should be applied when firing natures Fuzed L132.
 - d. If the imposition of a Trajectory Danger Area is not practicable any perceived risk should be assessed and approved by the Delivery Duty Holder¹ on an individual basis.

¹ As directed in OP ORDER 14/002 – THE ARMY’S APPROACH TO ‘RISK TO LIFE’ DATED 28 FEB 14.

4. The control measures mentioned in paragraph 3 will remain in place until such time as the investigation into this incident is concluded and final changes to prevent such a future occurrence have been developed and put in place. These measures will be implemented either through the issue of an additional RAN and/or amendment to JSP 403, Pamphlet 19² and the supporting RSOs.

EFFECTIVE DATE

5. The required action is to be taken immediately on receipt of this notice.

Original Signed

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² Army Code 71035 Artillery Training Volume III, Field Artillery, Pamphlet 19 Regulations for Planning, Control, Conduct and Safety for Firing Practices.