

LAND RANGES WORKING PARTY

RANGE SAFETY NOTICE 06/09

For issue by the Defence Storage and Distribution Centre, Bicester to all those on the current distribution list for Volume I of JSP 403. This Range Safety Notice is also available for viewing in the Joint Service Publications area of the Defence Intranet website alongside JSP 403, and available on the internet on the following website:

<http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/MicroSite/DES/OurPublications/JSP403/>

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LMG BACKSPASH HAZARD – GALLERY RANGES

Reference:

- A. JSP 403 Volume 2

BACKGROUND

1. There have been backslash incidents at Altcar and Bulford where ball and tracer rounds fired from the LMG have entered the markers gallery. Investigations are ongoing to ascertain the cause but there is a requirement to provide a short term solution to enable training to continue whilst reducing the risk to As Low as Reasonably Practicable (ALARP) and the residual risk tolerable.

ADVICE TO BE FOLLOWED

2. LMG practices conducted on a gallery range with the markers gallery manned may only be carried out under the following conditions:
- There are number of ranges that already provide additional protection for those in the markers gallery. These consist of enclosed and semi-enclosed galleries and others with timber walls or locally manufactured protective boarding. Where a range of this type is used the normal butts procedure may be followed.
 - Where no additional protection is available the butt party is to wear personal protective equipment to include combat body armour, helmets and issued eye protection.
 - Where the options above are not possible units are to vacate the markers gallery during the period that LMG live firing practices are being conducted.
3. Use an alternative range. The ETR and CGR (with AMS – no markers required) are 2 options where this hazard is avoided.

4. When deciding on which range to fire the LMG, the following choices should be considered in order of preference:

- a. Use an ETR or GR with AMS.
- b. Use a GR with an enclosed or semi-enclosed gallery.
- b. Use a GR with timber facings or protective boarding to minimise backslash.
- c. Use the GR with gallery personnel in PPE including; body armour, eye protection and helmet.
- d. Use the GR with the gallery unmanned.

5. RAU are to ensure these restrictions, where necessary, are set out in Range Orders. RAU are to consider also protection to range staff if they are located at the gallery end of the range. Units are reminded that all incidents of backslash must be recorded in the MOD Form 906 for further action.

EFFECTIVE DATE

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

DISPOSAL

6. This Range Safety Notice remains in force until the content has been incorporated into Reference A by a change or until it has been cancelled. In either of these eventualities, it can be destroyed.

Date of Issue: 9 Nov 09

Chairman Land Range Working Party