
LAND RANGES WORKING PARTY

RANGE SAFETY NOTICE 03/09

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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CLOSE ENGAGEMENT ON CONSTRUCTED RANGES.

References:

- A. JSP 403 Vol.2
- B. LRWP 3 Jul 09

BACKGROUND.

1. Following Project Odysseus recommendations to produce realistic operational training the Army Operational Shooting Policy (AOSP) will include rifle and pistol practices down to 10m from targets on constructed ranges.

BACKSPLASH CRITERIA.

2. Current advice in Reference A provides backsplash distance for centerfire rifle at 22m. Notes to Table 2, which describes predicted backsplash criteria for ranges generally includes a reduction in backsplash expected from "well maintained"¹ stop butts as 5m. However the 5m backsplash is from rounds fired from the 100 to furthest firing points on gallery ranges. For 7.62mm ball backsplash remains at 22m, 7.62mm tracer ammunition backsplash and ricochet remains at 125m.

Note 1 – Well maintained bullet traps are those where all bullet debris laying on the surface of the trap around the areas of impact is removed after each days firing.

BACKSPLASH ASSESSMENT.

3. HQ Inf reported at Reference B that 5.56mm close engagement practices down to 3m on 25m Barrack Ranges by RM under RN Dispensation had been formally monitored over a six month period and no backsplash beyond 3m recorded. With this data the LRWP at Reference B gave approval for practices down to 10m authorised in the revised AOSP.

ADVICE.

4. Close engagement into well maintained¹ sand or granulated rubber bullet traps is approved for 9mm and 5.56mm down to 10m in accordance with AOSP. 5.56mm ball and tracer may be fired into sand bullet traps down to 10m but where rubber granulate is used in bullet traps or mantlets no tracer is to be fired closer than 75m.

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 C by a change or until it has been cancelled. In either of these eventualities, it can be destroyed.

Date of Issue: 12 Aug 09

Chairman Land Range Working Party