



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Land Ranges Safety Committee
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See Distribution

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RANGE SAFETY POLICY LETTER 13/01 – ESTABLISHING OPERATIONAL RANGES

Reference:

A. JSP 403 – Handbook of Defence Land Ranges Safety Volume 1 – Range Management.

Background

1. Due to the frequency in which Operational Ranges are now established it has been necessary to revise Reference A to require any decision as to the siting of any operational theatre range to take into account the threat to British troops or contractors from enemy forces. With immediate effect, the following rules will apply.

General

2. The setting up of Operational Theatre Ranges (OTR) will be at the direction of the deployed operational theatre commander provided he is at 1* level or above (or, if not, as directed by his operational commander at the appropriate level, see paragraph 0621). Apart from the appointment of a RAU, there is no requirement when a range is first established for the full authorisation and closure process detailed in this chapter to be followed; nor is there a need to maintain the normal range documentation apart from records required in accordance with paragraph 0636. However, the deployed operational HQ and the RAU may find it helpful to use the authorisation process as a guide and checklist when initially establishing and operating the range. Any decision to the siting of any operational range should:

- a. Take full account of any threat to friendly troops posed by hostile elements. This should be by means of a structured assessment of threat and risk: for which the operational J2 cell should have primary responsibility in consultation with, Counter- IED and Force Protection specialist.
- b. Recognise, in any counter-insurgency environment, that risk levels are dynamic and the pattern-setting nature of range work will be identified as a weakness and targeted by any competent insurgency, so that ranges, and range activity, will be exposed to a high level of risk even if the general risk level is at an acceptable level.

c. Where any part of the range to which UK force elements has access lies outside the perimeter of any base secured by UK forces, the risk assessment will:

(1) Be renewed at intervals of not more than 6 months or sooner where there has been any adverse change either in threat/risk level or in the force protection measures available to mitigate any risk.

(2) Be approved at inception and upon renewal of the decision as to the location, by the overall UK operational commander, or his deputy of not less than two star rank.

3. Where British troops or contractors are required to operate close to other nation ranges whilst those ranges are in use a specific risk assessment is to be made to ensure it is safe to be in close proximity to such a range while it is in use. Where there is any doubt such activity should only be carried out when the other nation range is not in use.

Dissemination

4. In due course, the contents of this policy letter will be incorporated into Reference A. In the meantime, the policy is effective from the issue of this letter.

5. Duty holders represented on the DLRSC are requested to cascade the policy and guidance in this letter through their chains of command to all Range Authorising Officers and Range Administering Units likely to be affected by it. This policy letter will also be distributed to all holders of Reference A through the Defence Munitions Centre and will be placed on the Defence Intranet/Internet website for viewing alongside JSP 403.

(Original Signed)

BP O'Callaghan
Secretary DLRSC

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