DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE CIVIL ENGINEER SUPPORT AGENCY

20 OCT 2008

FROM: HQ AFCESA/CEO
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SUBJECT: **Engineering Technical Letter (ETL) 08-11: Small Arms Range Design and Construction**

1. Purpose. This ETL provides criteria for the design and construction of Air Force small arms ranges, and applies to both new construction and major renovations. Additionally, this document should be used as a guide for any ranges purchased as equipment items. The intent of this ETL is to provide the minimum design criteria necessary for achieving a safe range design. This ETL assumes users have a formal engineering education and background, or access to local engineering expertise. This ETL does not establish the number of firing points, target distance, targetry, or type of range. A planning team composed of major command (MAJCOM) and installation-level combat arms (CA), civil engineering (CE), bioenvironmental engineer (BE), and safety (SE) personnel will jointly establish the number of firing points, the target distance, and the type of range based on mission, training requirements, and available real estate.

This ETL is directive in accordance with Air Force instruction (AFI) 32-1023, *Design and Construction Standards and Execution of Facility Construction Projects*, and AFI 36-2226, *Combat Arms Program*, and must be used by a range designer when designing a new range or renovating an existing range. The range designer ultimately has the responsibility to ensure the minimum criteria presented in this ETL are used to provide a safe range design. This ETL may not cover all site-specific concerns and it is the designer's responsibility to adapt the intent of the ETL criteria to ensure the range is operationally safe. This ETL is not a specification or a prescriptive checklist and is not intended to replace professional judgment by a competent licensed professional engineer, after coordination with the end-user or installation CA section. Additionally, nothing in this ETL should preclude consideration and use of emerging technologies and commercially available products if these can be proven to result in a safe and otherwise satisfactory range design.

This ETL supersedes ETL 06-11, *Small Arms Range Design and Construction*.

Note: The use of the name or mark of any specific manufacturer, commercial product, commodity, or service in this ETL does not imply endorsement by the Air Force.

2. Summary of Revisions. This ETL is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed. It updates requirements and standards consistent with current technology and lessons learned. Editorial updates were performed to improve clarity and organization. This ETL also includes critical improvement to bullet traps that eliminated any blunt surface that would cause ricochet. This ETL incorporates the common general building

requirements in accordance with Unified Facilities Criteria (UFC) 1-200-01, *General Building Requirements*. Because these salient safety, health, and environmental features of permanent ranges apply to expeditionary or portable ranges, these ETL standards should apply toward portable ranges purchased as equipment.

3. Application: All Air Force installations.

- The criteria in this ETL shall apply to all small arms ranges where the design phase is 35 percent complete or less on the effective date of this ETL.
- New partially contained ranges will not be designed or constructed. If planned major range or component repairs of an existing range will cost more than 50 percent of the estimated range replacement cost (plant replacement value), the entire facility must be upgraded to comply with this ETL.
- After MAJCOM approval, HQ AFSFC/SFXW may approve deviations from the criteria in this ETL. MAJCOMs will submit requests for deviation to HQ AFSFC/SFXW, who will coordinate with HQ AFCESA for review.

3.1. Authority: Air Force policy directive (AFPD) 32-10, *Installations and Facilities*.

3.2. Effective date: Immediately.

3.3. Intended Users: MAJCOM functional managers; base civil engineers (BCE); bioenvironmental engineers; combat arms (CA), and range designers for the Air Force.

3.4. Coordination: MAJCOM functional managers and HQ AFSFC/SFXW.

4. Referenced Publications. In some instances, the references listed in paragraphs 4.1 through 4.8 may advocate procedures that seem to contradict those in this ETL. In these cases, the information in this ETL supersedes any other design and construction source and policy guidance on range operation and maintenance contained in AFI 36-2226 takes precedence over other sources.

4.1. Public Law:

- Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.1025, *Lead*, available at http://www.gpoaccess.gov/cfr/index.html

4.2. Department of Defense (DOD):

- DOD Directive 5100.76-M, *Physical Security of Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives*, available at http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/html/510076m.htm
- Military Handbook (MIL-HDBK) 1027/3B, *Range Facilities and Miscellaneous Training Facilities Other Than Buildings*, available at http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/browse_cat.php?o=30&c=80
- MIL-HDBK 1013/1A, *Design Guidelines for Physical Security of Facilities*, available at http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/browse_cat.php?o=30&c=80

- UFC 1-200-01, *General Building Requirements*, available at http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/browse_cat.php?o=29&c=4
- UFC 3-120-01, *Air Force Sign Standard*, available at http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/browse_cat.php?o=29&c=4
- UFC 4-010-01, *DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings,* available at http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/browse_cat.php?o=29&c=4
- UFC 4-020-01FA, *Security Engineering: Project Development* (FOUO), available at http://www.wbdg.org/ccb/browse_cat.php?o=29&c=4

4.3. Air Force:

- AFI 31-101, *The Air Force Installation Security Program* (FOUO), available at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil
- AFPD 32-10, *Installations and Facilities*, available at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil
- AFI 32-1023, *Design and Construction Standards and Execution of Facility Construction Projects*, available at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil
- Air Force handbook (AFH) 32-1084, *Facility Requirements*, available at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil
- AFI 36-2226, *Combat Arms Program*, available at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil
- AFI 90-901, *Operational Risk Management*, available at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil
- Air Force pamphlet (AFPAM) 90-902, *Operational Risk Management (ORM) Guidelines and Tools*, available at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil
- Air Force Occupational Safety & Health (AFOSH) Standard 161-2, *Industrial Ventilation*, available at http://www.e-publishing.af.mil (hardcopy only)

4.4. Navy:

- Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center Technical Manual (NMCPHC-TM) IH 6290.10, *Indoor Firing Ranges Industrial Hygiene Technical Guide*, available at http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/od/CDRomtoc.htm

4.5. Army:

- Army Pamphlet (PAM) 385-63, *Range Safety*, available at http://www.apd.army.mil/series_range_pubs.asp?range=385
- Training Circular (TC) 25-8, *Training Ranges*
- NGB-AVS-SG, *Policy and Responsibilities for Inspection, Evaluation and Operation of Army National Guard Indoor Firing Ranges*

4.6. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):

- *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges*, available at http://www.epa.gov/region02/waste/leadshot/

4.7. Industry:

- American Welding Society (AWS) D1.1, *Structural Welding Code – Steel*, https://www.awspubs.com
- ASTM A514/A514M, *Standard Specification for High-Yield-Strength, Quenched and Tempered Alloy Steel Plate, Suitable for Welding*, http://www.astm.org
- ASTM C76, *Standard Specification for Reinforced Concrete Culvert, Storm Drain, and Sewer Pipe*, http://www.astm.org
- ASTM C136, *Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates*, http://www.astm.org
- Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Lighting Handbook, http://www.iesna.org/
- National Rifle Association (NRA) of America, *The NRA Range Source Book*, latest edition, available at http://www.nrahq.org/shootingrange/sourcebook.asp

5. Acronyms and Symbols.

AFCESA	- Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency
AFH	- Air Force handbook
AFI	- Air Force instruction
AFOSH	- Air Force Occupational Safety & Health
AFPAM	- Air Force pamphlet
AFPD	- Air Force policy directive
AR	- Abrasion Resistant (i.e. AR500 plate)
AR	- Army Regulation
ASTM	- American Society for Testing and Materials
AWS	- American Welding Society
BCE	- base civil engineer
BHN	- Brinnell Hardness Number
BMP	- Best Management Practices
CA	- combat arms
cal.	- caliber
CE	- civil engineering
CFR	- Code of Federal Regulations
CMU	- concrete masonry unit
CONUS	- continental United States
dBA	- decibels (“A” scale)
DOD	- Department of Defense
DRMO	- Defense Reutilization Management Office
EOD	- explosive ordnance disposal
EPA	- Environmental Protection Agency
ETL	- Engineering Technical Letter
FOUO	- For Official Use Only
ft	- foot
HEPA	- high-efficiency particulate air (filter)

HMMWV	- high-mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle
HQ AFCESA/CEOA	- Headquarters Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency, Engineer Support Division
HQ AFSFC/SFXW	- Headquarters, Air Force Security Forces Center, Combat Arms
HVAC	- heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
IESNA	- Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
in	- inch
LAW	- light anti-tank weapon
LFA	- lead-free ammunition
LR	- long rifle
m	- meter
MAJCOM	- major command
MIL SPEC	- military specification
MIL-HDBK	- military handbook
mm	- millimeter
mpm	- meters per minute
NCOIC	- noncommissioned officer in charge
NMCPHC	- Navy and Marine Corps Public Health Center
NSN	- National Stock Number
O&M	- operation and maintenance
ORM	- Operational Risk Management
OSHA	- Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PEL	- permissible exposure limit
pH	- symbol for logarithm of reciprocal of hydrogen ion concentration in gram atoms per liter
PPBE	- planning, programming, budgeting, and execution
psi	- pound per square inch
RCP	- reinforced concrete pipe
RH	- relative humidity
RKT-HEAT	- rocket - high-explosive anti-tank
SDZ	- surface danger zone
SE	- safety
SGPB	- bioenvironmental engineer
TACOM-ARDEC	- U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command – Armament Research Development and Engineering Center
TBD	- to be determined
TC	- Training Circular
UFC	- Unified Facilities Criteria
VDZ	- vertical danger zone

6. Definitions.

6.1. *Small Arms Range*: A live-fire training facility for training and certifying personnel in the use of handguns, shotguns, rifles up to 7.62mm, rifles or machine guns up to .50 caliber, and the MK-19 40mm machine gun. A small arms range may

include special ranges for 40mm grenade launchers, light anti-tank weapons (LAW), and 81mm mortars. Equipment items such as fully (self-) contained portable or expeditionary ranges fall into this category.

6.2. *Surface Danger Zone (SDZ)*: The portions of the range in the horizontal plane that are endangered by firing a particular weapon. The SDZ includes the area between the firing line and the target line, an impact area, a ricochet trajectory area, and a secondary danger area. The SDZ may also include a weapon back-blast area. The SDZ must be located completely within the boundaries of U.S. government-owned or -leased properties. A fully contained range which is incapable of allowing a fired projectile to escape its limits does not have an exterior SDZ.

6.3. *Vertical Danger Zone (VDZ)*: For non-contained and partially contained ranges, the VDZ is the volume of airspace above the SDZ between the ground surface and the maximum ordinate of a direct-fired or ricochet round. The height of the VDZ varies with the weapon and ammunition fired (see Attachment 1). For fully contained ranges, the VDZ is the area between the SDZ and the upper limits of containment.

6.4. *Non-contained Range (Impact Range)*: A non-contained range is an outdoor/open range. The firing line may be covered or uncovered. Direct-fire rounds and ricochets are unimpeded and may fall anywhere within the SDZ. The non-contained range requires an SDZ equal to 100 percent of the maximum range of the most powerful round to be used on the range. This type of range requires the largest amount of real estate to satisfy the SDZ requirements.

6.5. *Partially Contained Range*: This range has a covered firing line, side containment, overhead baffles, and a bullet backstop. Direct fire is totally contained by the firing line canopy, side containment, baffles and bullet trap (no “blue sky” observed from firing positions). Ricochets are not totally contained, but reduced by the baffles and side containment. A partially contained range requires an SDZ length equal to 50 percent of the maximum range of the most powerful round to be used on the range. A partially contained range will not permit lateral movement along the firing line or movement toward the target line unless the range has the additional baffles required to stop direct fire at the downrange firing lines.

6.6. *Fully Contained Range*: Range in which direct fire and ricochets are totally contained within the limits of the range. There is no SDZ requirement outside the limits of the containment.

7. Design Criteria. Range design is based on providing facilities that meet the needs of the training courses of fire specified by HQ AFSFC/SFXW and MAJCOMs based on mission needs. Future range designs must consider courses of fire that may differ from traditional “line-up-and-shoot” courses of fire: certain courses of fire may require the shooter to advance downrange toward the target; other scenarios may include driving a vehicle (HMMWV [“Hummvee”] without pedestal-mounted weapon) into the range to practice vehicle dismount, cover techniques, and target engagement. It is imperative

that a range designer fully understand what types of training and courses of fire will take place on the range and design the range accordingly. The designer should also consider design flexibility that allows for changing courses of fire in the future. Facility design and construction must comply with UFC 1-200-01.

Air Force ranges will not be designed or constructed to only accommodate frangible ammunition. To ensure operational range safety is not compromised, existing ranges that do not have the required SDZ may restrict the range to frangible ammunition only. However, this must be a temporary work-around and the owning organization must program corrective action to permit firing of ball ammunition.

The goal of the new Air Force small arms training philosophy is to increase the current 25-meter standard target distance and expand the diversity of training that can be accomplished on the range. Ranges should be designed to allow the greatest target distance possible within the available land at the site (e.g., 50 meters, 100 meters, 300 meters, 1000 meters). The desired target distance is at or as close as possible to the sight zero distance for the weapon.

CA, CE, bioenvironmental engineering, and safety offices at the base and MAJCOM will jointly develop site-specific designs using the minimum criteria outlined in this ETL. MAJCOMs may submit designs that deviate from the requirements of this ETL to HQ AFSFC/SFXW for review. HQ AFSFC/SFXW will coordinate with HQ AFCESA/CEOA, Engineer Support Division, for review. Submit designs to HQ AFSFC only after MAJCOM approval. Individual MAJCOMs may establish design criteria exceeding the minimums specified in this ETL.

7.1. Range Types, Combination Ranges, Range Configuration, Site Selection, and Range Geometric Design.

7.1.1. Range Types.

7.1.1.1. Non-contained Range (Impact Range). The non-contained range accommodates the controlled and supervised discharge of weapons and has sufficient land area to ensure the discharged projectile does not exit the SDZ. The trajectory of the projectile is along the line of fire (orientation of the range) and the impact of the projectile is designed to be within the limits of the impact area. The firing line may be covered or uncovered. Typically there are no overhead baffles, but surface barriers or sidewalls may be provided to partially limit projectile trajectory. A non-contained range must have the land area to accommodate both the full SDZ and the full VDZ. Ammunition used on the range will establish the required length of the SDZ and the required height of the VDZ. SDZ length must be equal to the longest distance equal to 100 percent of the extreme range for the types of ammunition used on the range. The required SDZ must equal or exceed the minimum SDZ lengths listed in Table 1. For minimum VDZ height requirements, see Attachment 1.

Table 1. Minimum SDZ Distance Requirements for Small Arms Ammunition — Non-contained Range

Weapon/Caliber	Ammunition	Minimum SDZ Length Meters (Feet)
Handgun, 9mm pistol Submachine gun, 9mm	M882	1840 (6036)
Handgun, 9mm pistol	Frangible, lead-free, Winchester	1375 (4511)
Handgun, .44 magnum	Commercial local purchase	2290 (7513)
Shotgun, 12 gauge	00 buckshot	600 (1968)
Rifle, 5.56mm	Ball M193; tracer M196	3100 (10,170)
Rifle, 5.56mm	Ball M855; tracer M856	3600 (11,811)
Rifle, 5.56mm	M862 (plastic)	250 (820)
Rifle, 5.56mm	Frangible, lead-free, Federal Cartridge BC556NT1, PSPCL	2750 (9022)
Rifle/machine gun, 7.62mm	Ball M80; tracer M81	4300 (14,107)
Rifle/machine gun, 7.62mm	Match, M118	4800 (15,748)
Machine gun, .50 caliber	Ball M2 and M33/tracer M17/M8 API/M20 APIT	6700 (21,981)
M79, M203, 40mm low-velocity	M781/M407A1/M406/ M433/M381/M386/M441	500 (1640) 100* (328*)
MK-19, 40mm high-velocity	M918/M383/M430	2650 (8694) 350* (1148*)
M72 LAW, 35mm sub-caliber	M73	1300 (4265) 100* (328*)
M72 LAW, 66mm RKT HEAT	M72	1250 (4101) 250* (820*)
AT-4, 84mm RKT HEAT	M136	2600 (8530) 200* (656*)

*Additional standoff distance that must be added to minimum SDZ length to allow for EOD make-safe procedure.

7.1.1.2. Fully Contained Range (Indoor or Outdoor). A fully contained range is designed to prevent 100 percent of the direct-fired rounds and 100 percent of the ricochets from leaving the limits of the range. This type of range is used when the required minimum SDZ requirements are not available because of lack of land area or compatible land use. These ranges have an overhead containment structure (ballistic safety baffles) and sidewalls. If the range is located in a building (indoor range), the building envelope is typically not

designed to prevent projectile penetration unless it is part of the containment. The structure elements and materials used for the building roof may vary depending upon the type and configuration of interior overhead containment, type of backstop, and method used to trap bullets. The fully contained range design must preclude escape of both direct-fired projectiles and ricochets. No “blue sky” should be visible from any firing position and as one travels downrange towards the target. Construct the overhead baffles with a minimum of 150 millimeters (6 inches) of horizontal overlap between the trailing edge of any baffle and the leading edge of the next baffle downrange (see Figure 8). The range design must also address noise control and environmental hazards resulting from the use of ammunition containing lead and residue resulting from non-lead frangible ammunition. Ammunition residue may contain unburned propellant. Excess build-up of this residue has caused flammable hazards within ranges. This flammability hazard may be controlled using a combination of facility and operational procedures to eliminate the risk of fire. Range personnel must work with local agencies to determine the required frequencies and procedures for removing unburned propellant from the range.

7.1.1.3. Partially Contained Range.

7.1.1.3.1. Partially contained ranges are not permitted for new construction unless specifically approved by HQ AFSFC and HQ AFCESA. There are many existing partially contained ranges in the Air Force inventory.

7.1.1.3.2. All existing partially contained ranges that do not have the required SDZ must be programmed for upgrade or replacement to meet either full-distance, non-contained range criteria, fully contained range criteria, or the footprint of existing deficient SDZ must be increased to meet the 50 percent SDZ requirement for a partially contained range. Existing partially contained ranges and other facilities designed in accordance with previously published criteria may continue to operate if range safety can be verified.

- Verify range safety using the operational risk management (ORM) analysis in accordance with AFI 90-901, *Operational Risk Management*. See Attachment 2 for an ORM example.
- Range computer modeling and simulation is a proven technique for analyzing range safety and identifying necessary improvements.

Range safety violations and unsafe operating conditions must be addressed and corrected as soon as they are identified.

7.1.2. Combination Ranges. Range designs may be configured to accommodate a variety of weapons and courses of fire. The appropriate configuration must be determined by the types and sequence of weapons used.

7.1.2.1. Multi-purpose Ranges. The multi-purpose range provides for simultaneously firing more than one type of weapon. The complex consists of adjacent baffled and/or impact bays. A sidewall separates the two range types to prevent bullets from one range from entering the adjacent range.

7.1.2.2. Superimposed Ranges. A superimposed range accommodates different types of weapons and may be either a non-contained (impact) range or a fully contained (baffled) range; however, only one type of weapon may be fired at one time. The superimposed range allows for the maximum use of land area and is usually the least expensive since there are no sidewalls between firing positions.

7.1.2.3. Special Ranges. Typically, special ranges are non-contained ranges designed to accommodate multiple target lines or arrays and set up for special types of weapons or unique courses of fire. Certain special ranges may exceed the scope of this ETL. Contact HQ AFSFC and HQ AFCESA for additional guidance.

7.1.3. Range Configuration. The range type, size, and configuration is based upon the installation mission, land availability, Air Force and MAJCOM policy, installation population, annual training requirements, and weapon-specific training requirements. Base CA personnel will submit their requirements for ranges through the chain of command to the MAJCOM functional manager. Once the MAJCOM has validated the need, the BCE will begin a feasibility study for the proposed range. Programming and budgeting for range construction must occur within the framework of the normal planning, programming, budgeting and execution (PPBE) process.

7.1.4. Site Selection.

7.1.4.1. BCE. The BCE will identify the available real estate for the site of a small arms range facility that is consistent with the installation's master plan. The installation master plan will indicate the range location, orientation, SDZ, and VDZ.

7.1.4.2. Planning. A project team composed of the CA non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), a land use planner, a BCE representative, and a ground safety representative should collectively review the proposed range usage and location for land use compatibility. Safety is the primary concern when determining the site for a small arms range. Orient the SDZ and VDZ to minimize the effect of range operations on populated areas, aircraft ground and air operations, and land uses within the travel distance of the

ammunition. Where full-containment enclosures have not been provided, the project team should assume that ricochets would land in all portions of the SDZ. The BCE is responsible for plotting the SDZ and the VDZ on the base master plan. Mitigate any conflicts of land use or airspace operations with the SDZ or the VDZ as part of the PPBE process.

7.1.4.3. Real Estate Acquisition. When government-owned property suitable for a small arms range is not available, and where land acquisition is feasible, the BCE will prepare the documents required for purchase or lease.

7.1.4.4. Geographical, Environmental, and Climatic Effects.

7.1.4.4.1. If possible, an outdoor range should be oriented north-to-south to minimize glare. To minimize residue from being blown back to the shooter, site an outdoor range with the prevailing wind blowing from the shooter's back toward the target line. Supplemental ventilation will be required to maintain the recommended air flow across the firing line. Avoid locating the range upwind of residential or populated areas. Site outdoor ranges and their impact areas to minimize projectiles and projectile residue falling in wetlands or waterways.

7.1.4.4.2. Regions subject to snow accumulation and extended periods of continuous sub-freezing temperatures should have indoor ranges. When this is not possible, the outdoor range should be located to minimize drifting snow, ice buildup, and excess water and to facilitate snow removal inside the range periphery.

7.1.4.4.3. Range sites must consider environmental concerns such as storm water management, protection of wetlands, ground and surface waters, historical or archaeological features, previously contaminated sites, and other concerns as may be determined by federal, state, and local environmental laws.

7.1.5. Range Geometric Design. The layout and dimensions of the facility must satisfy safety requirements and user needs. The following criteria are minimums:

7.1.5.1. SDZ Geometry. The range danger zone includes the projectile impact area, the SDZ, and a VDZ. Refer to Figures 1 through 6 for the typical geometry of the SDZ. The VDZ reflects the geometry of the SDZ extended to the VDZ height.

7.1.5.2. Limits of Fire. The limits of fire are imaginary lines drawn from the outermost edges of the endmost firing positions, extended downrange through the target line and terminating at the SDZ limit. The limits of fire may be perpendicular to the firing line or they may depart the firing line at a

designated angle. The range configuration and use determines the departure angle of the limits of fire.

7.1.5.3. Projectile Impact Area or Direct Fire Zone. The projectile impact area is bounded by the left and right limits of fire, the firing line, and extends to the minimum SDZ arc length for the ammunition and range type (Table 1). When the target line and the firing line are the same width, the impact area forms a rectangle (Figure 1). When the target line is wider than the firing line, the impact area becomes a pie-shaped area formed by the limits of fire and the arc of the minimum SDZ length (Figure 2).

7.1.5.4. Ricochet Danger Area. The ricochet danger area is the area between the impact area and the secondary danger area. The ricochet area typically is determined by extending a line drawn at a 10 degree angle off the left and right limits of fire, beginning at the firing line and extending to the minimum SDZ arc (Figures 1, 2, and 3). For a LAW range (Figure 4), the ricochet area is drawn at a 13 degree angle.

7.1.5.5. Secondary Danger Areas. Secondary danger areas are provided to catch fragments from exploding ammunition or ricochets from rounds that impact at the outer edge of the ricochet danger area. A line beginning at the intersection of the firing line and the firing limits is drawn departing from the line of fire at an angle of 40 degrees, extending outward for 1,000 meters (3,280 feet). From the 1,000-meter point, a second line extends to a point on the minimum SDZ arc 100 meters (328 feet) outside the ricochet area limits.

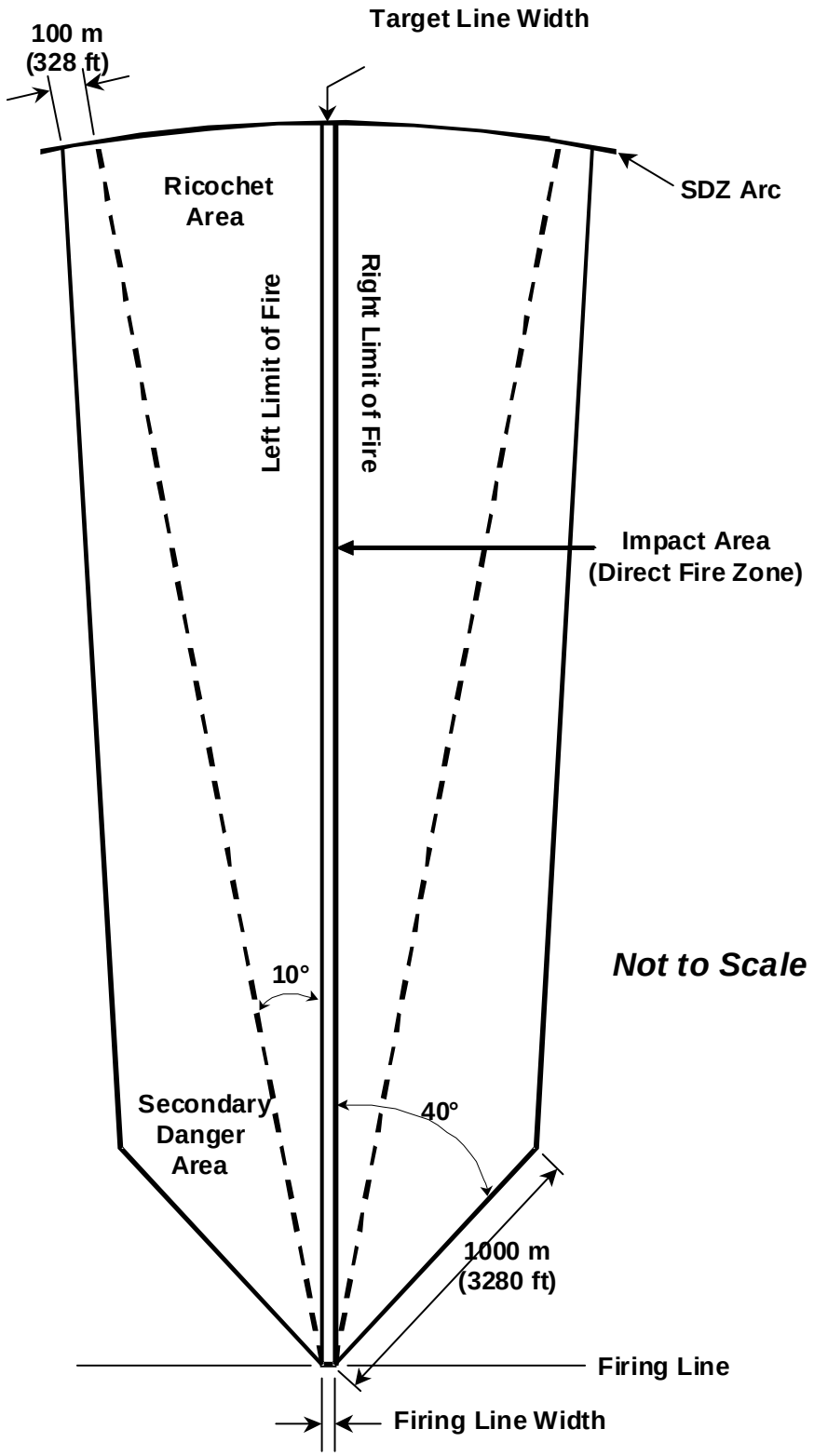


Figure 1. SDZ Configuration — Firing Line Width Equal to Target Line Width

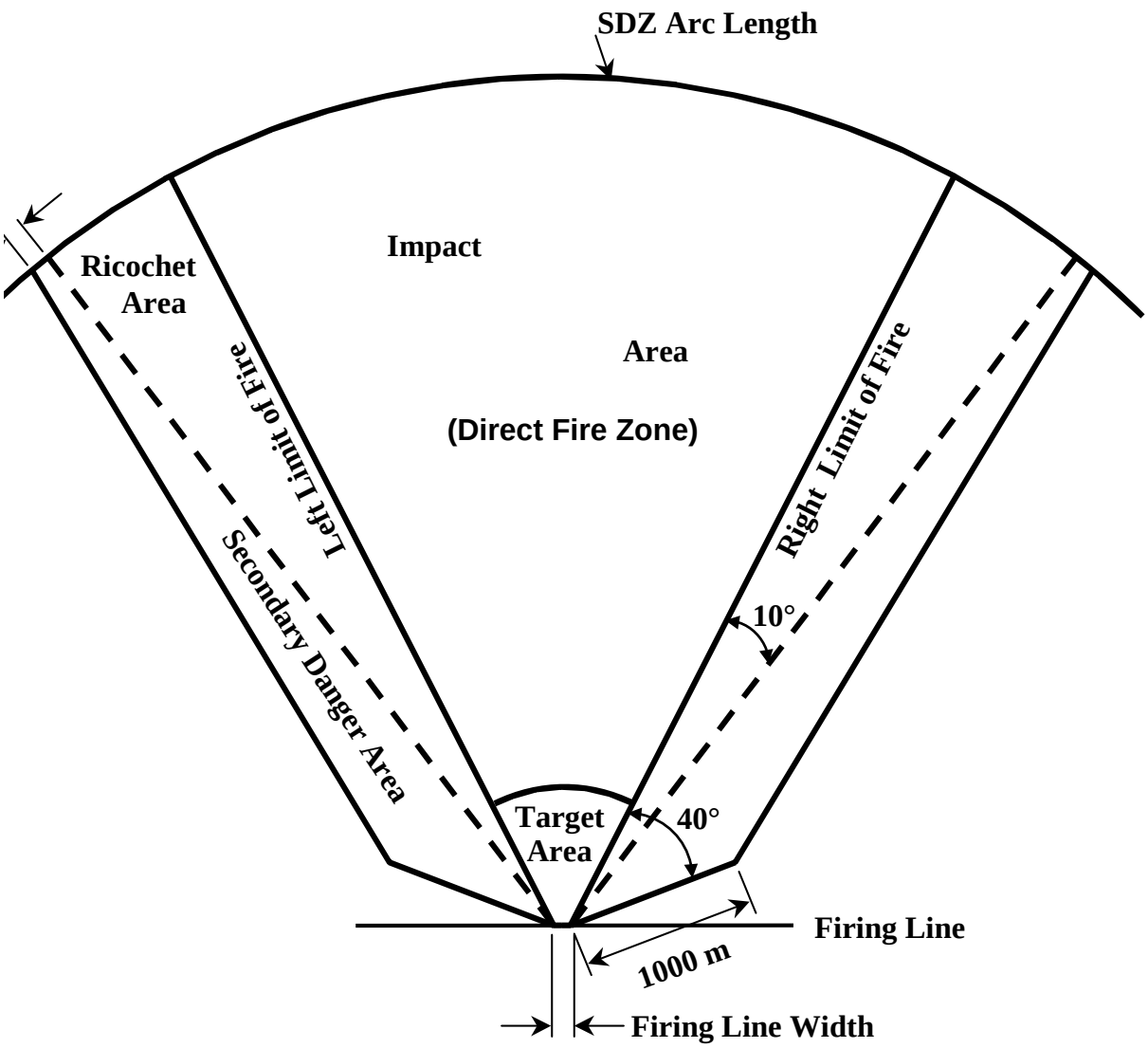
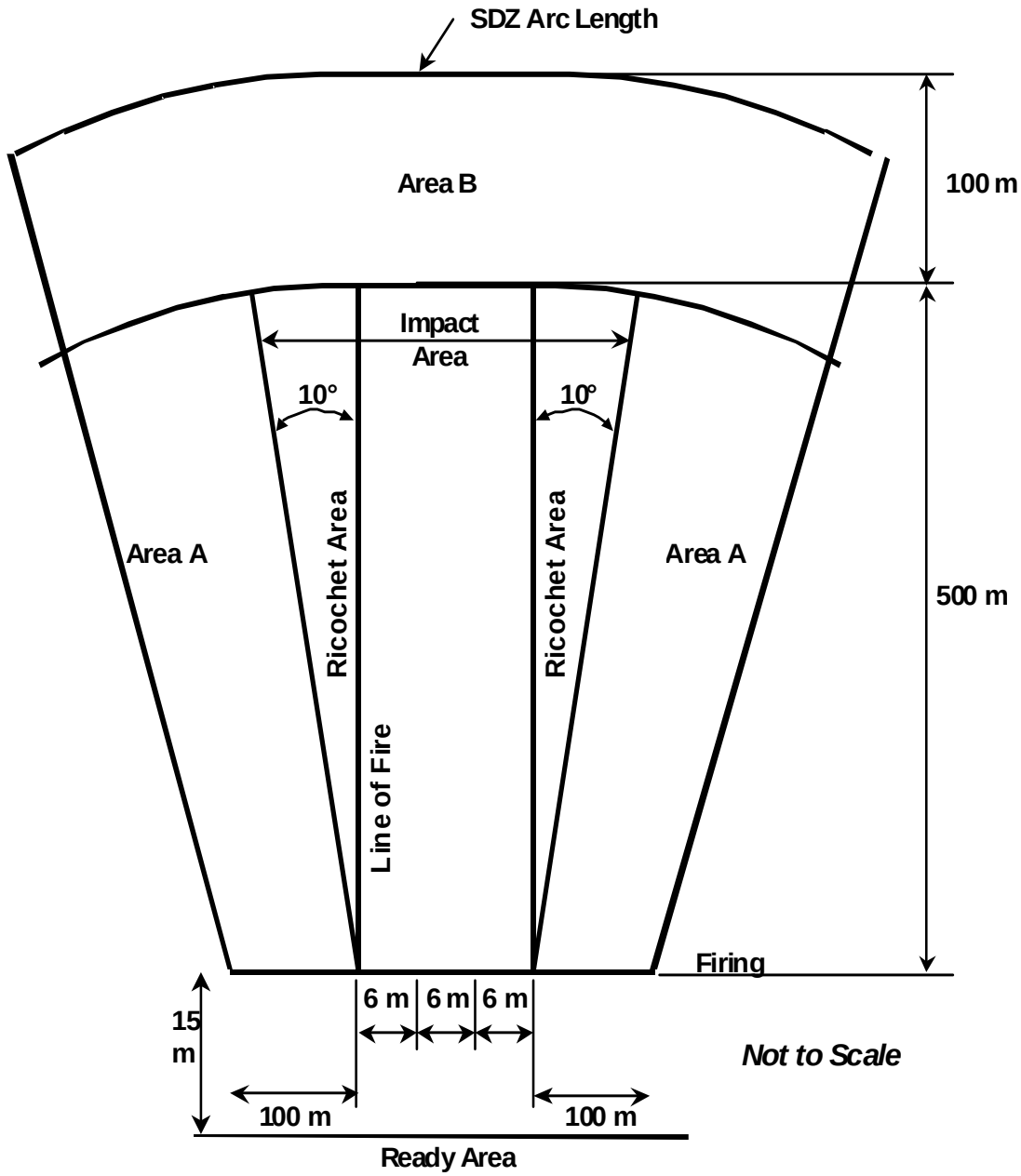


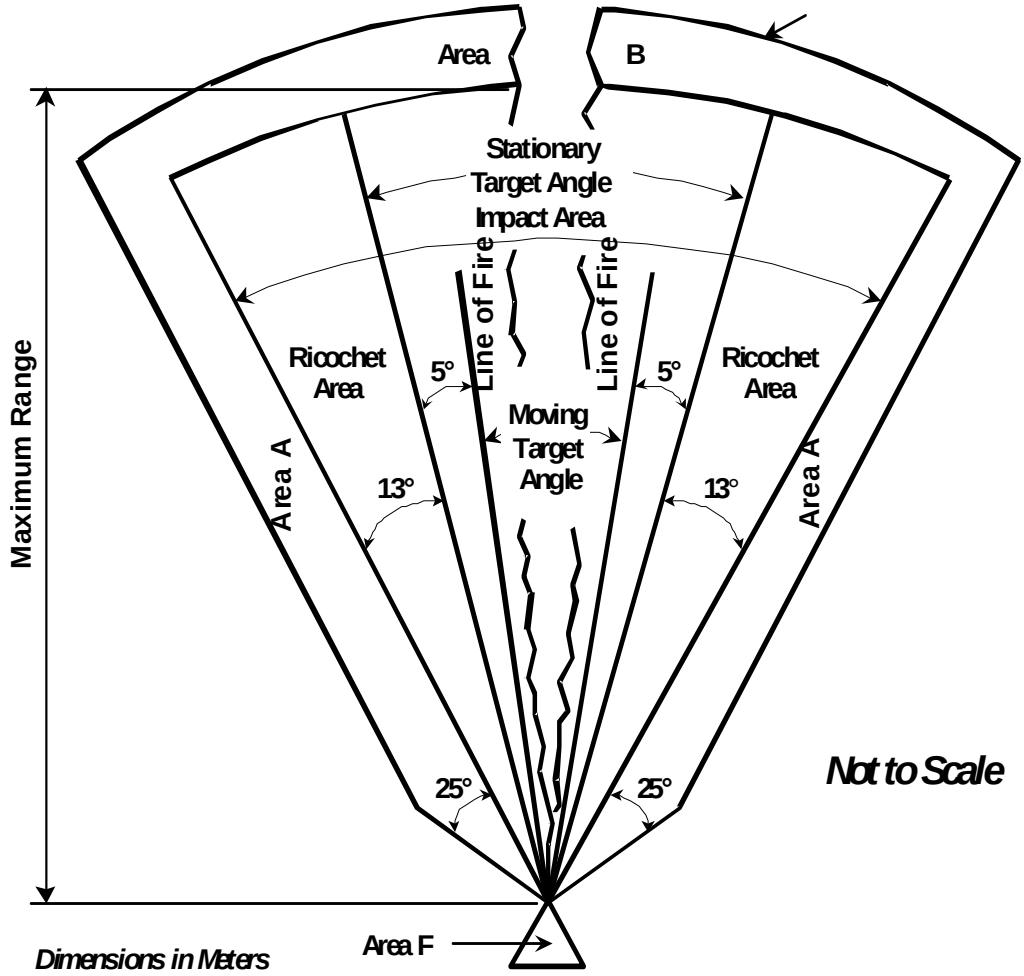
Figure 2. SDZ Configuration — Target Line Wider Than Firing Line



NOTES

1. Additional firing positions may be added provided minimum of 6 m (19 ft) is maintained.
2. Provide a 100-m (328-ft) clear zone (Areas A and B) around the perimeter of the range for EOD disposal of dud rounds with explosive type projectiles.
3. Ranges only certified for use of M781 or other inert projectile rounds are not required to include the 100-m (328-ft) space (Area A) to the left and right of the firing positions.

Figure 3. SDZ Configuration — M79 and M203 Grenade Launcher Range



	Area		Minimum Range to Impact	Maximum Range	Area F	
	A	B			Depth	Base
66mm HEAT Rocket, M72	250	250	75	1250	40	25
35mm Subcaliber, M73	100	100	50	1300	40	25
84mm HEAT Rocket, M136	227	448	50	2100	95	190

Figure 4. SDZ Configuration — Light Anti-Tank Weapons (LAW) Range

7.1.5.6. SDZ for Frangible Ammunition. On existing ranges that do not have the required SDZ, the use of frangible ammunition may mitigate the lack of SDZ and allow the range to continue to operate safely. This may only be used as a temporary measure and the owning unit must program for corrective action to allow firing of full-power ball ammunition. The SDZ depicted in Figures 5 and 6 are based on firing from the firing line only; down-range firing training operations shall not be used unless a projectile trajectory analysis is performed.

7.1.5.6.1. For an existing 25-meter (82-foot) partially contained range with earth side berms and an earth backstop, the required SDZ when using frangible ammunition is 300 yards (274 meters). See Figure 5.

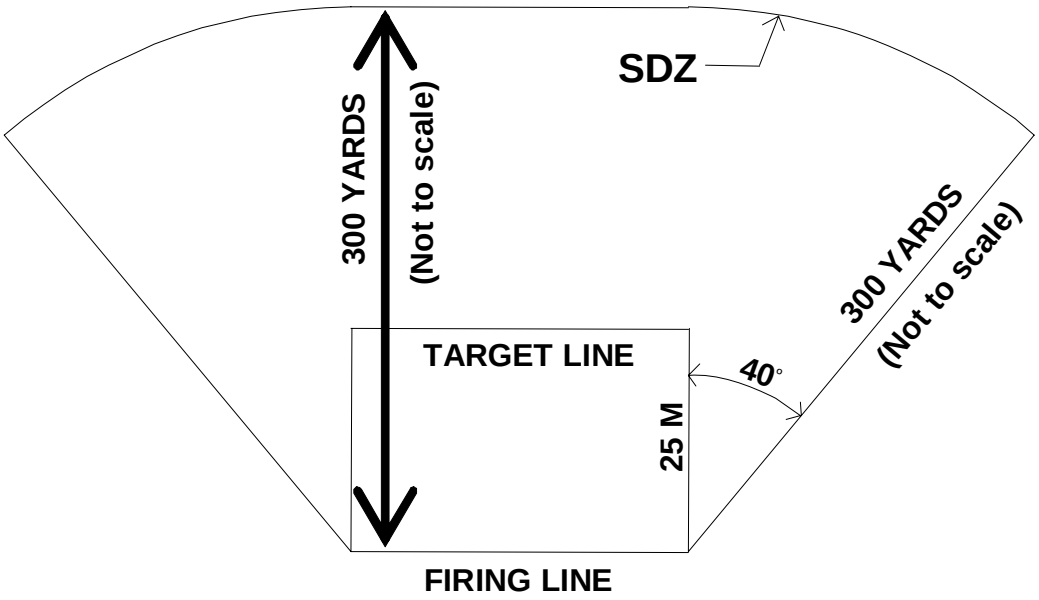


Figure 5. SDZ Requirement for Frangible Ammunition on a 25-Meter (82-Foot) Partially Contained Range with Earth Side Berms and Earth Backstop

7.1.5.6.2. For an existing 25-meter (82-foot) partially contained range with sidewalls of concrete or concrete block, overhead ballistic baffles (angled or vertical), and a bullet trap, the required SDZ when using frangible ammunition is 100 meters (328 feet). See Figure 6.

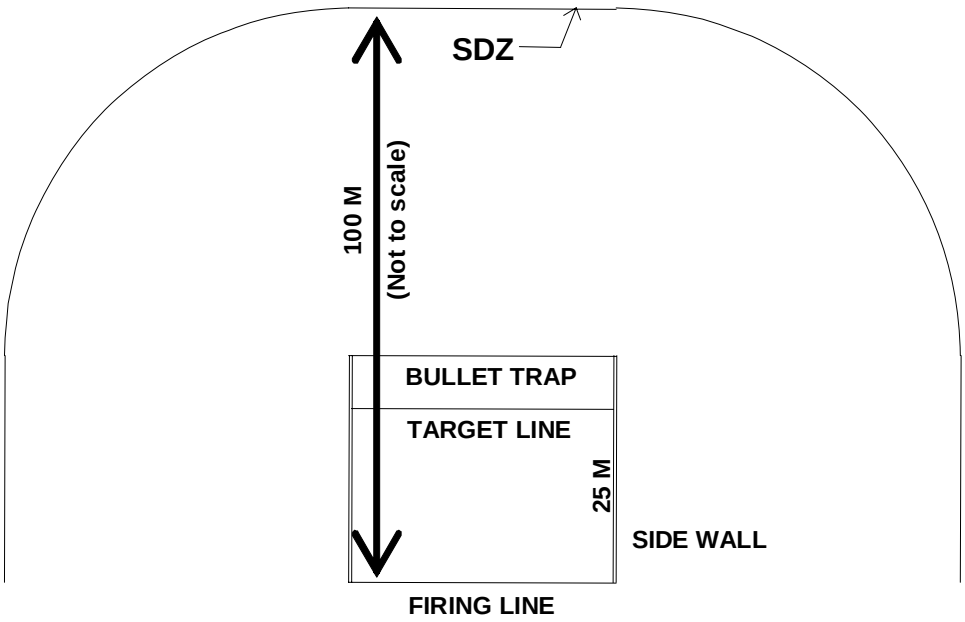


Figure 6. SDZ Requirements for Frangible Ammunition on a 25-Meter (82-Foot) Partially Contained Range with Sidewalls and Bullet Trap

7.1.5.7. Firing Line Positions/Platforms. The number of firing positions establishes the width of the firing line. All small arms (rifle, pistol, and shotgun) ranges must have a minimum of fourteen positions on the firing line. Add additional positions in increments of seven firing positions. The width of the firing positions must be at least 1.52 meters (5 feet) center-to-center. The firing line must be located on a stable horizontal surface that is at least 4.3 meters (14 feet) wide, clear distance, for the length of the firing line. For most ranges, the firing platform is a concrete slab on grade. For non-contained ranges that have fighting positions dug in the ground, sandbags, or other definite structures to identify the firing line, the firing platform can be an earth surface. For special weapons, CA personnel will specify the number of firing positions and the widths of each position based upon training requirements.

7.1.5.7.1. Position Numbering. Each firing position will be numbered beginning from the left when facing the target line. The numbers must be at least 200 millimeters (8 inches) tall and displayed on rectangular backgrounds attached to the position barricade or other location that is clearly visible to all shooters and range officials. Odd-numbered positions will be marked with white numbers on a black background; even-numbered positions will be marked with black numbers on a white background.

7.1.5.7.2. Position Barricades. A wooden barricade in the form of a cross (+) must be installed at the left edge of each firing position. The minimum

nominal dimensions of the wood must be 50 millimeters (2 inches) by 150 millimeters (6 inches). The top surface of the horizontal member must be 1220 millimeters (48 inches) above the platform.

7.1.5.7.3. Firing Line. Paint a red line a minimum of 100 millimeters (4 inches) wide on the leading edge of the firing platform on the target side. For non-contained ranges without concrete firing line platforms, a firing line will be marked definitively in red on the downrange side of the firing positions; examples would include treated timber imbedded along the firing line and painted red or a line of safety cones. This is the stationary firing line and must be continuous for the full length of all the firing positions. For move-and-shoot courses of fire, the firing line is relocated down range as appropriate for the training scenario.

7.1.5.8. Ready Line. Paint a yellow line 100 millimeters (4 inches) wide on the firing line platform at least 2.4 meters (8 feet) behind the firing line (towards the rear of the firing platform). The line must be continuous for the length of the firing platform. This line is designated the ready line.

7.1.5.9. Target Line. Targets are placed along the target line, which runs parallel to the firing line. Targets are placed opposite and aligned with each firing position.

7.1.5.10. Target Line Configuration.

7.1.5.10.1. The distance from the firing line to the target line must be the same for all firing positions. Targets may be placed on turning, pop-up, or stationary mechanisms, or target retrieval systems along the target line. Ensure that the line of sight from the firing line to the target line is clear and structural members, baffles, walls, or improper lighting do not obstruct the shooter's sight picture from any firing position the shooters will use (e.g., prone, kneeling, left barricade, right barricade). Number each target location the same as its corresponding firing position. On non-contained ranges, the target line may be fixed and several firing lines constructed to permit firing at reduced distances. When this option is used, only the rear-most firing line will incorporate a firing platform. If the range has an earthen backstop, ensure there is sufficient distance between the closest firing line and the earthen backstop to eliminate the possibility of backspatter and ricochets affecting the shooter.

7.1.5.10.2. The center of the target must be located between the upper limit of fire (standing position), which is 1500 millimeters (60 inches) above the firing line, and the lower limit of fire (prone position), which is 150 millimeters (6 inches) above the firing platform. The entire target face must be fully displayed to the firing position when exposed to the shooter for engagement.

7.2. Criteria Applicable to All Ranges. Design all range components (including ballistic safety structures and deflector plates) to satisfy the requirements for the weapon and ball ammunition used on the range. Except for non-contained ranges, ballistic safety structures are required for firing ranges. Ballistic safety structures include baffles, side containment, and backstops. Baffles are safety structures classified as canopy baffles or overhead baffles. Side containment is provided by sidewalls, berms, or discontinuous side baffles. A backstop is an impact berm or bullet trap designed to stop direct-fired rounds. See paragraph 7.5 for more detailed descriptions of ballistic safety structures.

7.2.1. Construction Materials. The materials selected for range construction must achieve the longest life-cycle possible considering frequency of use, budget constraints, or other concerns. The desired life expectancy of permanent small arms range construction is 20 years. Permanent construction does not include protective construction, baffles, or sacrificial materials intended to capture projectiles. Evaluate alternative range design options using a life-cycle cost comprised of the initial costs plus all operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for the first five years of range operation. Using the proper materials for sidewalls, baffles, overhead containment, bullet traps, and other areas where a projectile could impact will ensure that the bullet is deflected downrange and not towards the firing line. Ricochet control must be considered when positioning brackets used for baffles, locating bolt heads, and selecting protective construction.

7.2.2. Horizontal and Vertical Control. Establish vertical control by assuming the firing platform surface is equal to elevation 0.0 meter. The firing line is the baseline for horizontal control.

7.2.3. Drains. On outdoor ranges, use positive grading to direct water away from the firing line and toward the target line. When the length of the slope or the natural terrain requires using drains between the target and the firing line, a trench drain should be located at the forward edge of the bullet trap. If a trench drain is installed, the bullet trap should extend into the trench drain to eliminate any exposed edges that may cause unpredictable ricochets. Use grade breaks to prevent exposing vertical surfaces to the firing line. Do not route storm water runoff from any range floor to a stream, pond, or other body of surface water. In some circumstances, if the range is located near a surface water body, it may be necessary to incorporate detention basins or flow-through sand or peat filters to prevent particulate heavy metals that may be present in storm water runoff from reaching surface water bodies. Indoor ranges will not have floor drains downrange of the firing line. See EPA *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges* for additional guidance.

7.2.4. Range Occupational Health Standards. All ranges should be designed to allow the use of service ammunition which contains lead and other contaminants. Design the range to control heavy metals and/or dust produced at both the

muzzle, ejection port of the weapon, bullet trap, and from the ventilation exhaust to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations. Review NMCPHC-TM 6290.10, *Indoor Firing Ranges Industrial Hygiene Technical Guide*, and the EPA's *Best Management Practices for Lead at Outdoor Shooting Ranges*. Additionally, the designer should coordinate with the base safety and bioenvironmental engineering health offices for additional requirements and review AFOSH standards to ensure compliance with current policy, including, but not limited to, AFOSH Standard 161.2, *Industrial Ventilation*.

7.2.5. Floor Surfaces. Fully contained indoor ranges must have a smooth, steel-trowel-finished concrete floor extending from the firing line to the bullet trap. Fully contained outdoor ranges may have a concrete floor with a broom finish parallel with the firing direction to prevent a slipping hazard. The concrete floor should not be painted and must be protected with a waterproof sealant. The outdoor range floor should slope from the firing line toward the target line. In special circumstances, hardened steel plate of a thickness sufficient to prevent penetration of the projectile may be used for the range floor if the designer provides design criteria, supporting data, and supporting calculations for approval. No protrusions from the floor that could be struck by bullets are permissible. Fully contained range floors should be cleaned using approved "dry" methods, such as HEPA-filtered vacuuming or damp mopping. Water wash-down or dry sweeping is not permitted. Design the range floor as a pavement to support anticipated vehicular loads (training or service vehicles). Design and locate floor slab joints to minimize the potential for unpredictable ricochets. Sawed control joints are permitted. Locate longitudinal floor joints between firing lanes. Traditional chamfered construction joints are not permitted.

7.2.6. Wall Surfaces. Construct wall surfaces for fully contained ranges of reinforced concrete, fully grouted reinforced masonry, or hardened steel plate of a thickness sufficient to prevent penetration by any projectiles fired on the range. If hardened steel plate walls are used, submit data and supporting calculations to the MAJCOM for approval. Steel plate wall designs must address noise abatement in the design and must not have exposed bolts or anchors. If concrete or masonry walls are used, they must remain unpainted to preserve their inherent sound-absorbing properties. Walls should have a continuous smooth surface, with no projections above the wall surface from bolt or rivet heads or the leading edge of deflector plates. Wall expansion/contraction joints should be designed with care to ensure a smooth wall surface is maintained. The typical 19-millimeter (0.75-inch) chamfered wall joint detail is not permitted unless baffle/deflection plates are incorporated in the joint design to span the chamfer. To eliminate erratic ricochets, install baffle/deflection plates to protect any range features attached to the wall. The deflector plates should be recessed into the wall surface to eliminate exposed edges.

7.2.7. Openings. If an existing building is converted for use as a range, all openings downrange of the firing line must be filled in with ballistic safety

structures. All heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment downrange of the firing line must be located behind baffles or the backstop. In new buildings, conceal pipes and conduits in the walls, above the ceiling baffles, or behind protective baffles. In converted buildings, relocate exposed pipes or provide protective construction. When doors are required downrange, they must be constructed of ballistic-resistant materials and equipped with hardware to allow opening only from the range side. Protect downrange doors with baffles and provide them with a visual and audible alarm.

7.2.8. Ventilation. The ventilation system must control exposure to lead and heavy metals in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1025, *Lead*. The supply and exhaust air system is critical to the safe operation of a fully contained indoor or outdoor range and to the health of range inhabitants.

7.2.8.1. Airflow. The ventilation system should provide laminar airflow across the firing line toward the bullet trap. At the firing line, the air velocity should be 23 meters per minute (mpm) (75 feet per minute), ±5 percent. Airflow should be evenly distributed across the firing line. Noise from the ventilation system will not exceed 85 decibels (dBA) behind the firing line.

7.2.8.2. Air Distribution. To ensure contaminants are ventilated from the firing line, install a perforated air distribution plenum or other distribution fixture along the rear wall to provide unidirectional airflow across the firing line and continuing downrange. The distance from the firing line to the perforated rear wall or plenum will be a minimum of 5 meters (16.4 feet).

7.2.8.3. For an indoor range, the ventilation design must include a positive exhaust system for removing airborne contaminants. Maintain a slight negative air pressure on the range, achieved by exhausting 3 to 7 percent more air than is supplied. Supply and exhaust fan systems must have control interlocks to ensure simultaneous operation. All doors into the negative pressure area must have air locks. Re-circulation of range air is not permitted.

7.2.8.4. Exhaust Intakes. Do not locate exhaust intakes near the firing line, and particularly not above the firing line. To ensure proper airflow, locate exhaust intakes at or behind the bullet trap.

7.2.8.5. Exhaust Air Discharge. Exhaust air discharged from the range and bullet traps must meet local, state, and federal requirements and be separated from the supply air intake to prevent cross-contamination of heavy metal-laden air. If the range is part of a larger building, do not discharge exhaust air at locations which would cause cross-contamination of overall building air.

7.2.8.6. Heavy Metal Dust at Ranges. Clean, hazard-free air is essential for a firing range. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has

established the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for airborne heavy metal dust at 50 micrograms per cubic meter per hour average for an eight-hour day (total daily exposure may not exceed 400 micrograms). Fully contained ranges (indoor and outdoor) must have ventilation systems designed to control exposure from the use of heavy-metal-containing ammunition. Lead-free ammunition (LFA) is now available and may be used to eliminate the lead contamination concern with older existing ventilation systems.

WARNING

Exposure to heavy metal dust is a severe health hazard associated with the operation of a small arms range.

7.2.9. Noise Reduction. Noise reduction in the range and noise transmission out of the range are different design considerations. Mass and limpness are two desirable attributes for sound absorption. Unpainted heavy masonry walls provide mass. Absorptive acoustical surfacing will reduce the noise level in the range but have little effect on transmission outside the range. Ambient noise levels at the firing line should not exceed 85 dBA, and should be considerably less to improve communication between shooters and the range official. Short-duration noise such as gunfire will exceed the 85 dBA level and may be as high as 160 dBA. The range design must prevent the reflection of these higher noise levels by using sound-absorbing materials where possible. Hearing protection for shooters will provide protection against this noise.

7.2.9.1. Use acoustical treatment on surfaces behind the firing line. Floor areas behind the firing line may be covered with acoustic material (rubber mats) if it will not impede heavy metal dust removal.

7.2.9.2. Do not paint downrange walls or acoustic tile, since paint significantly degrades the sound-absorbing qualities of the materials. Existing ranges may continue using painted surfaces. Special sound-absorbing concrete blocks are available that reduce the noise in the range.

7.2.9.3. Acoustic panels no larger than 1200 millimeters (47 inches) wide may be installed on walls and ceilings in the firing line area. Blown-on acoustic material and carpeting are not permitted due to the difficulty of cleaning accumulated heavy metal dust.

7.2.10. Infrastructure.

7.2.10.1. Range Control Booth. The control booth is a control center from where the chief range officer can observe and control the entire range. All range types should have a control booth. The following criteria apply to the design and construction of control booths.

7.2.10.1.1. Locate the control booth behind the ready line. Place the booth to permit an unrestricted view of all firing positions. The booth location and design must not impede ventilation airflow.

7.2.10.1.2. The minimum size for the control booth platform is 1.5 meters by 3 meters (5 feet by 10 feet). Align the long side parallel to the firing line.

7.2.10.1.3. The booth must be high enough (0.6 meter [2 feet] minimum above the floor) to permit the range official an unrestricted view of the entire firing line and the projectile impact area, including all range entry points. Also, windows and doors within the booth must not restrict or distort the range official's view. Closed-circuit television monitors may be used to enhance, but will not replace, this requirement.

7.2.10.1.4. Provide a worktable or counter at least 0.8 meter by 1.2 meters (2.5 feet by 4 feet) to accommodate reference materials, and provide at least one electrical outlet in the worktable/counter area. Provide red and white lighting for night/limited visibility operations.

7.2.10.2. Communication Systems. The range communication system must support communications between the control booth, the firing line, range control, range support buildings, and emergency response personnel. A permanent, hard-wired public address system is required. On a multiple-range complex, the system must also support communications between individual ranges. If it is not practical to install landlines, or if a break in landline service occurs, radio or cellular communications may be used. The control booth should be wired with connections to the base local area computer network.

7.2.10.3. Lighting. Design downrange lighting (both red and white light) in accordance with the IESNA Lighting Handbook to provide for safety and housekeeping operations as well as general range illumination. Light intensity at the target face should be 914 to 1076 lux (85 to 100 foot-candles) measured 1200 millimeters (47 inches) above the range surface at the target face. Provide approximately 322 lux (30 foot-candles) for white light general range illumination and approximately 107 lux (10 foot-candles) for red lights. Provide controls to vary lighting intensity throughout the range to accommodate subdued-light training requirements. Controls for all lighting will be operated from the control booth. Also provide flashing red and blue lights at the firing line and downrange to simulate emergency situations.

7.2.11. Barriers, Fences, and Signs. Secure the range and SDZ areas to prevent unauthorized entry. Use barriers to block roads, walkways, or paths.

7.2.11.1. Fully contained ranges require barriers in the form of key-operated, locked doors or electrically locked doors to prevent entry while firing is in progress.

7.2.11.2. Non-contained (impact) ranges require a number of barriers and signs to make the range safe. The number of barriers required depends on the number of roads, walkways, and paths that lead into the SDZ. Attach reflective warning signs to barriers.

7.2.11.3. Use fencing to prevent people, animals, and vehicles from entering range SDZs. A chain-link fence around the complete range complex, including the SDZ, is preferred. Use barriers or gates to block access paths. On baffled ranges with earth side berms and an earth/metal backstop, as a minimum, install a 1.82-meter (6-foot) chain-link fence along the sides of the SDZ and on the downrange side of the impact area, incorporating the berms. Install the fence no closer than 5 meters (16 feet) from the toe of the berms and backstop. For fully contained ranges with concrete containment walls and an earth/metal backstop, as a minimum, install the fence from one wall, around the backstop, to the opposite wall when range components are exposed. For example, if the back side of the bullet trap and spent round retrieval system is exposed, erect a fence to restrict access by unauthorized personnel. Provide a locked access gate for maintenance equipment.

7.2.11.4. Typical range signs are shown in Figure 7. Warning signs, and flashing red warning lights for night operations, should be positioned on the approaches to the range and along the perimeter of the SDZ if access is not otherwise restricted. Place red flags and/or rotating/flashing red lights at appropriate locations to signal when the range is in use. Place signs along the normal boundaries of the range. Post the signs no further apart than 100 meters (328 feet) along the range perimeter, parallel to roads or paths. Based on local topography, place signs close enough to give reasonable warning along other areas of the SDZ. Refer to Table 2 for proper location of warning signs. Signs must be bilingual where English is not the national language or multilingual where needed. Post bilingual signs on continental United States (CONUS) ranges located near foreign borders. Consult the installation legal office for local policy on bilingual signs. Construct warning signs in compliance with UFC 3-120-01, *Air Force Sign Standard*. The warning signs should have standard red letters on a white background.

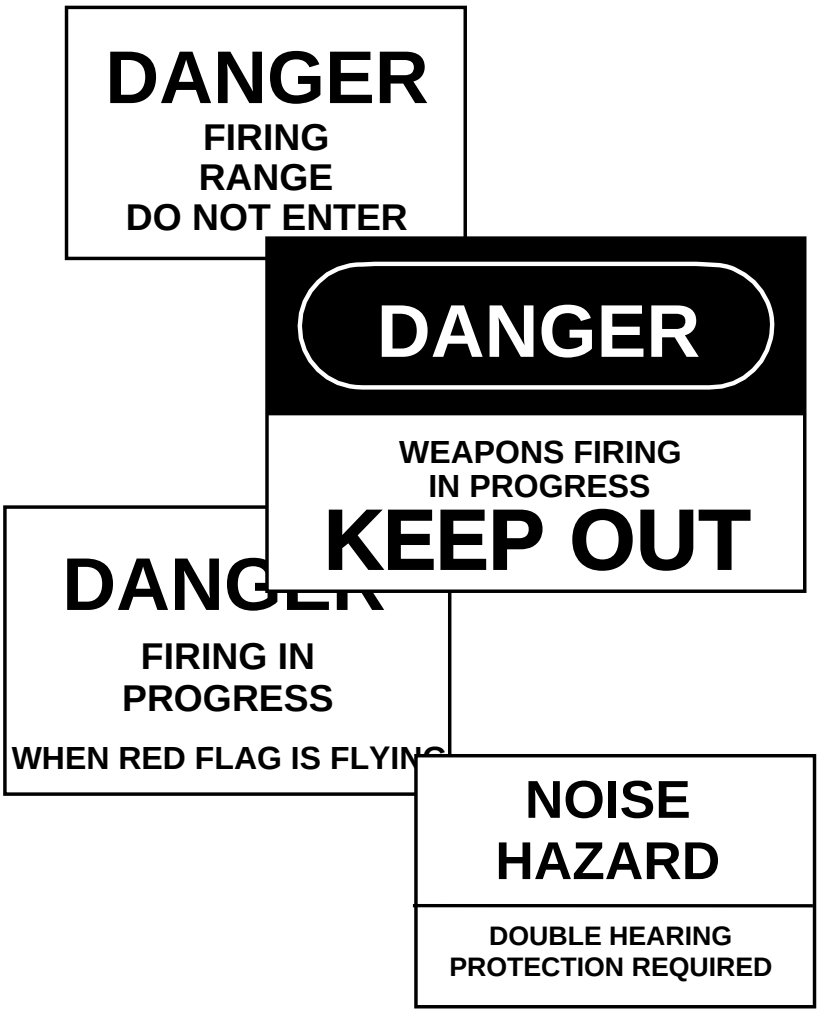


Figure 7. Typical Range Signs

Table 2. Locations of Warning Signs

Warning Sign	Location
Danger Firing in Progress When Red Flag is Flying	Approach roads
Danger Firing Range Do Not Enter	Fencing and barriers
Danger Weapons Firing in Progress Keep Out	Entry road
Noise Hazard Double Hearing Protection Required	Firing line

7.2.12. Utilities. Install utilities to prevent damage from normal firing range operations. Do not place any aboveground utilities in the impact zone or the ricochet zone. When utilities are directly behind backstops or berms, provide access for a maintenance vehicle. Underground utilities with proper cover may be placed anywhere on the range complex if maintenance and repair easements are provided.

7.2.12.1. Water and Sanitation. Water must be available for drinking, sanitation, and safety equipment. The required latrine size will be determined using conventional planning criteria and based on the number of people (instructors and trainees) supported.

7.2.12.2. Electrical Power. Provide electrical power for lighting, maintenance equipment, public address systems, HVAC, bullet trap dust collection system, and target-turning mechanisms.

7.2.12.3. HVAC. Heat and/or air conditioning is not recommended. Because re-circulated air within a range is prohibited, heating or cooling a range is costly. Some outdoor ranges in colder climates will require radiant heat or a heated air curtain on the firing line. Outdoor ranges must be oriented so the prevailing wind is at the shooters' backs.

7.2.13. Roads and Parking. Design roads and parking for access by passenger vehicles and light or medium trucks. Provide surfaced all-weather roads for

connector roads from public roads to the range complex. Parking and roadway standoff must comply with UFC 4-010-01, *DoD Minimum Antiterrorism Standards for Buildings*.

7.2.13.1. Range access roads must approach the range complex from behind the firing line and outside the SDZ footprint.

7.2.13.2. Locate parking areas to the rear of the firing platform. On fully contained ranges, the parking area may be beside the range side containment walls. Typically, one parking space per firing position plus an allowance for range personnel is sufficient. Ranges with heavy training loads occasionally require two spaces per firing position. When feasible, surface parking lots for all-weather operation.

7.2.14. Storm Water Runoff and Drainage. Design storm water control structures to prevent storm water erosion of impact berms. Divert surface water runoff within the range (including the SDZ) using best management practices (BMP) for heavy metal management that may include filtration, vegetated detention or retention basin, or other engineered structure to prevent direct discharge to a surface water body. Discharge of effluent to water bodies must meet all requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

7.2.15. Contaminant Monitoring. A contaminant monitoring program provides early indications of heavy metal and contaminant movement. A comprehensive monitoring program should sample the surface soil, surface water, and ground water for soluble lead, dissolved lead, total lead, and nitrates. The frequency of sampling is dependent on how often the range is used and site hydrological conditions. Consult with the installation CE and bioenvironmental engineering personnel to determine if a contaminant monitoring program is required.

7.3. Additional Criteria for Non-contained Ranges.

7.3.1. Siting Considerations. Take advantage of natural geologic formations for use as backstops. Trees are allowed downrange of the impact berm, but not between the firing line and the target line. Take advantage of natural drainage. Where terrain permits, slope the range floor toward the backstop. Flowing watercourses (streams, ditches) in the impact area or near a berm should be avoided. Avoid establishing range impact areas in wetlands or in locations subject to frequent flooding. The non-contained range line of fire should not be in the direction of residential areas or upwind of residential areas.

7.3.2. Provide maintenance vehicle access to all range areas, including the backstop, side earth berm areas, and impact areas.

7.3.3. Soils. Do not use pea gravel to surface or edge the impact area of the range or the area between the firing line and the target line. Naturally occurring

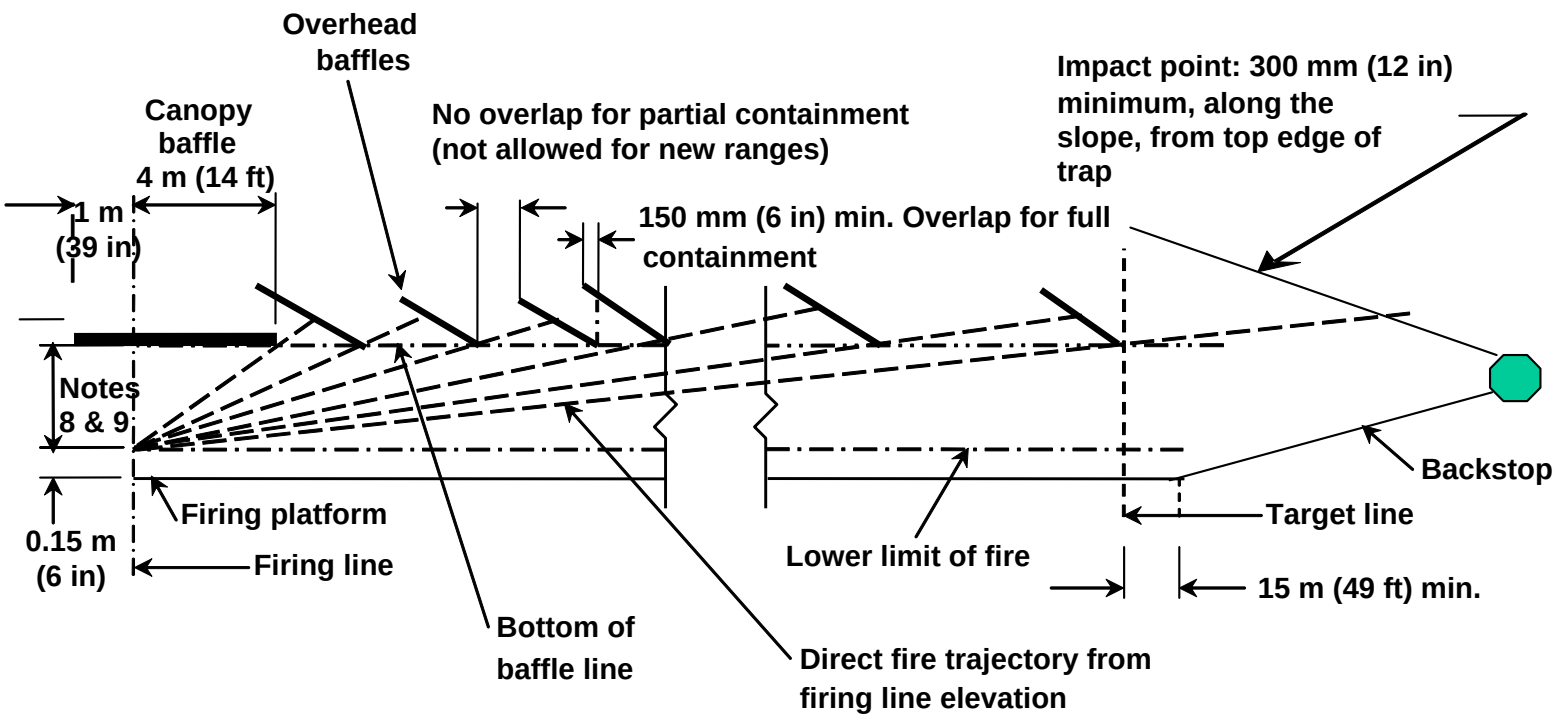
soils that are not excessively rocky may be used between the firing line and the target line. Typically these will be clays, clayey sands, sands, silts, and silty sands that are mostly free of rocks and debris, with no more than 15 percent of the material gradation retained on a 24-millimeter (1-inch) sieve.

7.3.3.1. Soil Amendments. BCE environmental management must test soils within the impact areas for pH levels every two years. The desired pH ranges from 7 to 8. Test soil additives to ensure that they will not cause cementing or hardening of the soil surface. Do not use lime as an additive or soil conditioner when the natural soil gradation includes more than 30 percent passing the #200 sieve, American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) C136, *Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates*, and/or the natural soil Plasticity Index is higher than 12.

7.3.3.2. Vegetation. Maintain vegetation on berms and drainage-ways when possible. Plant grass on impact areas. Turf grasses do an especially good job of retaining water and sediment onsite. Choose a grass variety that is native to the area and will require minimal water and fertilizer.

7.3.3.3. Reclamation and Recycling. Remove lead from the impact face of earth berm backstops when there is evidence of lead mass buildup. This will typically require that soil be excavated to a depth of 0.6 to 0.9 meter (2 to 3 feet) and screened using a 4-millimeter (#5) wire screen. Personnel certified in lead reclamation and wearing proper personal protection may sift the lead from the soil by screening onsite after consulting with bioenvironmental engineering personnel and satisfying all environmental requirements. Reclaimed lead must be disposed of or recycled in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Consult BCE environmental management, bioenvironmental management, and the Defense Reutilization Management Office (DRMO) about reclaiming, recycling, or disposing of lead. Lead removed from bullet traps and earth berms is not considered a hazardous waste if recycled for metal recovery.

7.4. Additional Criteria for Fully Contained Ranges. Construct fully contained ranges to preclude any bullets from leaving the limits of containment. This requires additional attention to detail so no gaps, openings, or other paths for bullet escape are present. Use ballistic safety structures to provide the containment. For fully contained ranges, construct overhead baffles with a minimum of 150 millimeters (6 inches) of horizontal overlap between the trailing edge of any baffle and the leading edge of the next baffle downrange. This arrangement will provide containment such that a vertical line perpendicular to the range floor and projected upwards does not encounter any “blue sky” space. Figure 8 shows a baffle arrangement for full containment.



NOTES

1. This profile is based on a level range and a fixed firing line.
2. The target distance is established by CA to satisfy the intended training or courses of fire.
3. A tactical, fully contained range will allow shooters to move laterally along the firing line and downrange.
4. Overhead baffles must be angled from 12° to 32° from the horizontal.
5. Fully contained ranges require a 150-mm (6 in) minimum baffle overlap.
6. For existing partially contained ranges, baffles are spaced as required to bring the bullet into the baffle at a point not less than 300 mm (12 in) below the top of the following baffle as measured along its slope.
7. The bullet impact point on the bullet trap is not less than 300 mm (12 in) below the top edge of the trap as measured along the slope.
8. If vehicle access is not required, locate the bottom of the baffles at least 2.45 m (8 ft) above the firing platform.
9. If vehicle access without machine gun pedestal, locate the bottom of the baffles at least 3.68 m (12 ft) above the platform.
10. The canopy baffle may be sloped up to 30 degrees from the horizontal. If sloped, the high point of the canopy is closest to the target line.

Figure 8. Typical Overhead Baffle Configuration

7.4.1. Construct ballistic safety structures for fully contained ranges with attention to the quality of the fabricated parts. Baffle plates with butt joints must fit together closely to prevent any gaps more than 1.6 millimeters (0.0625 inch) wide. Modern plate-cutting techniques can provide precise dimensions, but particular care must be taken in erecting the baffles to ensure a precision fit of parts. The development of construction/erection details that use overlapping joints and joint-closure plates may provide a better, more economical solution than precise fabrication and also may simplify the erection procedures.

7.4.2. Good examples of fully contained ranges are at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. These ranges are considered fully contained and have a track record of millions of rounds fired without a single documented case of a bullet leaving the containment limits.

7.4.3. Additional Criteria for Vehicle Access. New training scenarios will use vehicles for practicing vehicle dismount, cover, and engagement of targets from the vehicle. The design vehicle for range design purposes is a HMMWV ("Humvee") without a pedestal-mounted weapon. Vehicle access requires consideration of higher clearance from range floor to baffles and vehicle paths into the range. See Figure 8.

7.5. Ballistic Safety Structures.

7.5.1. Canopy Baffles. A canopy baffle is an angled or horizontal baffle attached to and directly above the firing platform, extending downrange from the firing line. It prevents direct-fired rounds from escaping the range between the firing line and the first overhead baffle. The bottom of the canopy baffle must be at least 2.45 meters (8 feet) above the level of the firing platform if vehicle access is not required. The canopy will begin at least 1 meter (3.2 feet) behind the firing line and extend at least 4 meters (14 feet) forward of the firing line toward the target line. The canopy baffle must block line-of-sight daylight from any possible firing position. A canopy baffle may be used to provide a covered firing line position. A canopy baffle may be used on a non-contained range without either overhead baffles or side containment. Face the portion of the canopy baffle directly over the firing positions with plywood or lumber of sufficient thickness to capture the ricochet from a round fired directly over the shooters.

7.5.2. Overhead Baffles. An overhead baffle is an angled baffle (vertical baffles are not authorized for new range projects) installed downrange to deflect and contain direct-fired rounds. Install overhead baffles downrange beyond the firing line to prevent line-of-sight daylight when sighting downrange from any firing position. A shallow angle deflects bullets more easily and there is less metal fatigue and denting in the surface of the plate. A fully contained range requires a 150-millimeter (6-inch) minimum overlap of baffles. The overlapping baffles will allow shooter movement throughout the range and will prevent projectiles from leaving the range even if the weapon is accidentally fired straight up. Line-of-

sight analysis shall consider rounds fired from any angle and any training position forward of the firing line. Angled overhead baffles redirect projectiles downrange. Install angled overhead baffles with the bottom edge further downrange than the top edge. Install overhead baffles parallel to the firing line. Under no circumstances may any “blue sky” be visible forward of the firing line from any firing position. Refer to Figure 8 for a typical configuration. Install angled overhead baffles for new ranges and baffle replacement projects.

7.5.3. Ground Baffles. Ground baffles are not permitted on Air Force ranges.

7.5.4. Baffle Construction. As a minimum, use materials specified in Table 3. These materials may also be used for protective construction. For angled steel plate baffles, install plywood facing to prevent “splash-back” ricochets on baffles located within 5 meters (16.4 feet) of the expected position of the shooter. If shooters move downrange and fire, the splash-back protection will be required for baffles at the downrange locations as well. **Note:** Install acoustic materials to canopy baffles to reduce noise. **Note:** The Brinnell Hardness Number (BHN) measures steel hardness. The higher the BHN, the harder the steel.

Table 3. Construction Materials for Canopy and Overhead Baffles

Weapons	Ammunition	Construction*
Handguns	.22 LR, .38 cal., .45 cal., .357 cal., 9mm, .44 cal.	6 mm (0.25 in) steel plate with a nominal 440 BHN or higher, covered with one sheet of 19 mm (0.75 in) and one sheet of 11 mm (0.4375 in) plywood
Rifle, carbine, machine gun	5.56mm, 7.62mm, .30 cal.	10 mm (0.375 in) steel plate with a nominal 500 BHN, covered with one sheet of 19 mm (0.75 in) and one sheet of 11 mm (0.4375 in) plywood

***Notes:**

1. On steel plate baffles, install plywood facing on overhead baffles located within 5 meters (16.4 feet) of the shooter to mitigate the risk of “splash-back” ricochets. Attach the 19-millimeter (0.75-inch) sheathing to the steel using flathead countersunk screws. Attach the 11-millimeter (0.4375-inch) plywood to the 19-millimeter (0.75-inch) sheathing using #8 flathead screws at 300-millimeter (11.8-inch) spacing.

2. Nominal AR500 ballistic plate manufactured to BHN 500 may have BHN values ranging from 480 to 530.

7.5.5. Side Containment or Sidewalls. Sidewalls are required to prevent direct fire from exiting the range. Finished elevation of a sidewall must be above the top edge of the highest overhead baffles. Each sidewall must be at least 1.52 meters (5 feet) from the outside edge of the firing position limits of fire and extend at

least 1 meter (3.2 feet) to the rear of the firing line. Sidewalls may be made of earth, fully grouted reinforced masonry block (CMU), reinforced concrete, or hardened steel.

7.5.5.1. Continuous Walls. Vertical smooth-faced walls constructed of reinforced concrete, CMU with fully filled cores, or hardened steel may be used for sidewalls. Table 4 lists minimum wall thicknesses. Design these walls for all dead and live loads, including lateral forces. See paragraph 7.2.9 for noise reduction requirements. Walls will extend 1 meter (3.2 feet) behind the firing line to prevent a bullet fired parallel to the firing line from leaving the range.

Table 4. Sidewall Minimum Thickness

Material	Caliber			
	.45/9mm	**5.56mm**	**7.62mm**	**.50**
3500 psi concrete	150 mm (6 in)	150 mm (6 in)	200 mm (8 in)	300 mm (12 in)
Grout-filled CMU	200 mm (8 in) CMU	300 mm (12 in) CMU	300 mm (12 in) CMU	600 mm (24 in) CMU

7.5.5.2. Discontinuous Sidewall Baffles. Side baffles are similar to overhead baffles, except they provide discontinuous protection to each side of the range outside the entire length of the line of fire. They are set between 15 and 45 degrees relative to the line of fire and provide an advantage over continuous walls whenever cross-range ventilation is needed.

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7.5.5.3. Earth Berms. The slope of earth berms must not exceed a 2:3 vertical-to-horizontal ratio unless materials are stabilized. If native soil characteristics will not produce a stable slope at this angle, use fabric reinforcement in the fill. The soil may require conditioning to achieve satisfactory soil pH levels to prevent lead decomposition. Typical angles of repose for natural soils in loose or least-dense state are shown in Table 5. Use Table 5 only as a guide, since mechanical stabilization may increase the angle of repose. The width of the top of the berm must be at least 3 meters (9.8 feet). Construct the outer layer (2 meters [6.5 feet] thick) of the impact face with sands, silty sands, or clayey sands, free of rocks, and with 100 percent passing the #4 sieve, ASTM C136. Soil with more than 40 percent clay-size particles passing the #200 sieve is not acceptable for the outer 2-meter (6.5-foot) layer of the impact face. Clay may be used for the core. For erosion control, plant a vegetative cover on the faces and tops of berms.

Irrigation devices may be used on the faces and tops of berms not subject to direct fire. Ensure access for maintenance vehicles.

Table 5. Natural Angles of Repose (Internal Friction) for Naturally Occurring Soils

Soil Types	Angle of Repose/ (Internal Friction)
Silty sand/fine sand/clayey sand	30
Coarse sand	35
Silts	25
Gravel/sandy gravel/gravelly sand	34

7.5.6. Backstops. A backstop is used behind the target line. It must stop a direct-fire bullet by media capture or deflect the bullet into a trap.

7.5.6.1. Earth Backstops. Earth backstops are the most common backstop for outdoor ranges. As an example, for a 25-meter (82-foot) outdoor range, locate the backstop so the longitudinal centerline of the berm (backstop) is at least 50 meters (164 feet) from the firing line. The toe of the slope must be located at least 9 meters (29.5 feet) from the target line nearest the backstop. The top of the backstop must be high enough so that a line drawn from the firing line and under the last overhead baffle will intersect the backstop at least 2 meters (6.5 feet) below its top. The impact face of the earth backstop must be soil with 100 percent passing the #4 sieve, ASTM C136, for a depth of 2 meters (6.5 feet). The slopes should be stabilized with grass vegetation with access locations provided for maintenance and repair equipment. Incorporate a steel deflector plate (eyebrow) into the backstop if a higher degree of confidence is required to prevent direct-fired rounds from leaving the impact area of the backstop. Soil with more than 40 percent clay-size particles passing the #200 sieve is not acceptable for use in the impact area face of the backstop. If required, soil should be conditioned to achieve suitable pH levels as indicated in paragraph 7.3.3.1.

7.5.6.2. Metal Backstops. Metal backstops are large plates installed behind the target line to stop direct fire and ricochets. Metal backstops are not approved for new construction. They are typically found on older existing partially contained or fully contained ranges but may be found on non-contained ranges. A metal backstop is not a bullet trap. See paragraph 7.5.6.4 for a discussion of bullet trap requirements. The metal backstop should be located a minimum of 15 meters (49 feet) beyond the target line to allow target and backstop maintenance and to minimize the possibility of splashback ricochets or lead exposure to the shooters executing a

downrange course of fire. Additionally, provide sufficient vehicle access to maintain the backstop. The required direct fire and ricochet containment must not be compromised when providing vehicle access. On outdoor ranges, provide corrosion protection for a metal backstop. Painting does not provide adequate protection. Consider adding an overhead cover to provide protection.

CAUTION

Do not use armor-piercing or incendiary rounds with metal backstops or bullet traps unless the backstops or traps have been designed to accommodate these rounds. If commercially designed range components are used, ensure that the products satisfy the design requirements for the ammunition used on the range.

7.5.6.3. Backstop Deflector Plates (Eyebrows). A deflector plate is not a bullet trap. See paragraph 7.5.6.4 for a discussion of bullet trap requirements. A backstop deflector is typically installed on top of an earth backstop to provided added containment safety. Install the backstop deflector plate at an angle between 30 and 42 degrees from horizontal. Angles other than these are permissible if test data and calculations support the design. Set the highest edge of the deflector plate nearest the firing line. The shallow angle deflects bullets more easily and there is less metal fatigue and denting in the surface of the plate. Anchor steel plates supported by concrete or masonry with flush countersunk heads. Eliminate exposed edges which may produce erratic ricochets. Ensure edges of steel plates are milled at all joints and joints are butted flush and smooth. Plates must be free from buckle or wave. Exposed edges must be chamfered to a 45-degree angle to a fillet approximately 4 millimeters (0.16 inch) wide. Exposed structural members supporting deflector plates are not permitted. Welding must conform to American Welding Society (AWS) D1.1, *Structural Welding Code – Steel*, latest edition. Position steel plates so welds are no closer than 450 millimeters (17.7 inches) from the center of a target position. Steel plate jointed at and supported on structural steel supports must be spot-welded. (See Figure 11.)

7.5.6.4. Bullet Traps. Only commercially designed and constructed bullet traps are permitted. Sand, media or water traps (recycled lubricating water excepted) are not permitted in new construction. Bullet traps are typically used on contained ranges and placed in front of the backstop or rear wall of the range. They are total systems that deflect, stop, trap and contain direct-fired rounds, and may incorporate vacuum or other dust-management systems to capture projectile particles. Bullet traps installed at indoor ranges must have a dust-management system installed to provide heavy metal particle removal from the range environment. The bullet trap must be

designed to accommodate the ammunition/weapon to be fired as well as the expected quantity of ammunition fired (annual rate of fire). The bullet trap should extend the entire width of the firing line. The trap shall not present any blunt surface exposure that would create a ricochet hazard internal to the equipment or at the connection to the sidewalls and floor. All future purchases of bullet traps must incorporate trap designs with a continuous, non-partitioned, and unbroken slot or bullet path into the deceleration chamber. Typical designs have in the past had fabrication details with vertical bulkhead plates in the deceleration chambers. These plates create vertical blunt edges that cause back-splash-type ricochets of the steel penetrator tips of the M855 5.56mm round. There have been documented cases of the steel penetrator tips ricocheting back to the firing line and endangering the shooters. The trap must have the capability to be cleaned of accumulated deposits of bullets and fragments while minimizing lead exposure to the maintainer.

Note: Only trained personnel wearing proper personal protection will remove lead, and only after consulting with bioenvironmental engineering personnel and following the trap manufacturer's recommended procedures.

The space directly behind the bullet trap must be easily accessible for maintenance and repair of the bullet trap and backstop. The bullet trap metal thickness and hardness must meet the minimums listed in Table 6 for each type of ammunition to be fired on the range. If lesser thicknesses are proposed, the range component designer must provide test data and calculations supporting a lesser thickness. Angles of the metal plates must conform to those directed by the manufacturer to handle the munitions fired from varying shooter positions, target distances, and target positions. Design all traps for tracer rounds if a tracer round can be used in the weapon operated on the range.

7.5.6.4.1. Qualifications for Commercial Trap Manufacturers. Commercial bullet trap and range component manufacturers must demonstrate at least five years of continuous component manufacturing and submit a minimum of five examples of similar range components installed by the manufacturer, with customer references.

Table 6. Minimum Steel Plate Thickness for Metal Backstops, Deflector Plates, and Bullet Traps

Max Angle	Ammunition	Armor Plate/ 300 BHN	440 BHN	500 BHN
42	.22 LR rim fire	6 mm	6 mm	6 mm
42	.38 cal. ball	10 mm	6 mm	6 mm
42	.45 cal./.357 cal.	10 mm	6 mm	6 mm
42	9mm pistol	10 mm	6 mm	6 mm
42	.44 cal. magnum	12 mm	10 mm	10 mm
30	5.56mm, 7.62mm	12 mm	Not recommended	10 mm
30	.30 cal. carbine	12 mm	Not recommended	10 mm

Note: 0.25-inch and 0.375-inch plate may be substituted for 6-mm and 10-mm plate, respectively.

7.5.7. Metal Backstop, Deflector Plates, and Bullet Trap Material.

7.5.7.1. Construct metal backstops, deflector plates, and bullet traps with the minimum metal thickness and hardness listed in Table 6. Small variations of BHN (less than 5 percent lower than the nominal number) are acceptable.

The design/specification must reference the applicable ASTM standard or MIL SPEC, the grade of steel required, and the hardness. To ensure that the correct grade of steel is installed (all steel plate looks the same), require a certificate of compliance. The plate thickness tests were conducted for the plate angles listed; however, a flatter plate angle is desired (the flatter the angle of the plate, the better). A shallow angle deflects bullets more easily, and there is less metal fatigue and denting on the surface of the plate.

7.5.7.2. Do not use mild structural steel, carbon steel plate, or low-alloy steel conforming to ASTM A36/A36M, *Standard Specification for Carbon Structural Steel*, ASTM A242/A242M, *Standard Specification for High-Strength, Low-Alloy Structural Steel*, or A572/A572M, *Standard Specification for High-Strength, Low-Alloy Columbium-Vanadium Structural Steel*; they lack adequate pitting resistance and deteriorate rapidly on small arms ranges.

7.6. Range Support Facilities. Range support facilities include the CA building and munitions storage room/building (Category Code 171-476), a building for the storage of range supplies and equipment (Category Code 171-472), and a building for target storage and repair (Category Code 171-473).

7.6.1. CA Building. The CA building provides a temperature-controlled environment for the CA section. The building houses classrooms, administrative offices, weapons maintenance areas, space for the cleaning and degreasing of

weapons, an alarmed weapons and munitions storage room, sanitary facilities, a student weapons cleaning room, and miscellaneous storage. Figure 9 presents an example of a typical floor plan. A small arms range with more than 21 firing points or an installation with more than one range or type of range requires proportionately larger facilities. Give consideration for space to accommodate weapons simulator training as mission needs dictate.

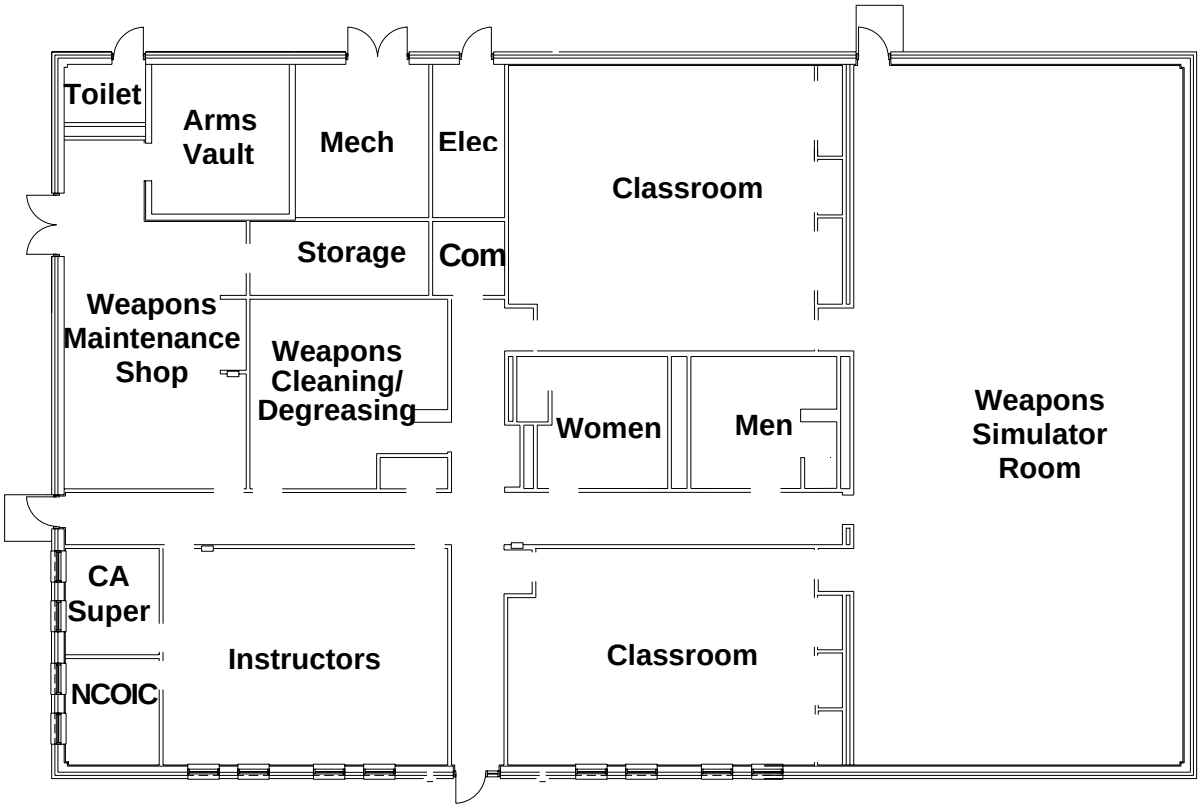

Figure 9. A Typical CA Building Configuration

7.6.1.1. Classrooms. Classrooms must be large enough to provide each student receiving handgun, rifle, shotgun, or submachine gun training a chair and a table work surface of at least 610 by 915 millimeters (24 by 36 inches). Provide space for each student receiving machine gun or LAW training to accommodate a work surface of at least 865 by 1145 millimeters (34 by 45 inches). The classroom will include a raised instructor's platform, aisle space for instructor access to individual tables, and sufficient space and connections for audiovisual equipment and computers.

7.6.1.2. Administrative Space. This area (typically about 13 square meters [140 square feet]) contains offices for program administrators and CA personnel such as the NCOIC and several instructors.

7.6.1.3. Weapons Simulator Room. This room is specifically designed for commercially purchased projection-based weapons simulators. A five-lane system requires a room approximately 10.7 meters by 5.3 meters (35 feet by 17.5 feet). A ten-lane system requires approximately 10.7 meters by 10.7 meters (35 feet by 35 feet). The room should have at least a 2.7-meter (9-foot) ceiling height and no windows. The room must have dimmable lighting, HVAC, and a minimum of four 110-volt and/or 220-volt dedicated power outlets to operate air compressors, projectors, and computers. Two dedicated telephone lines are required for operating the system and for remote diagnostic support.

7.6.1.4. Weapons Maintenance Shop. The weapons maintenance shop must have space for workbenches, hand tools, power tools, equipment, and spare parts storage. A range that supports less than 5,000 weapons requires a 28-square-meter (300-square-foot) shop. An installation that supports over 5,000 weapons will require 37 square meters (400 square feet). Provide a lavatory with potable water in the immediate area. An emergency eyewash station is also required. Provide additional ventilation as required. Maintain relative humidity (RH) below 65 percent.

7.6.1.5. Weapons Cleaning/Degreasing Room. This room accommodates workbenches, degreasing tanks, and spray hoods. Special design requirements include exhaust and ventilation air, vapor-proof electrical fixtures, compressed air service, and solvent-resistant wall and ceiling finishes. The minimum space requirement is typically about 12 square meters (130 square feet). A lavatory with potable water should be in the immediate area. An emergency eyewash station is also required. The installation safety office and bioenvironmental engineering may have additional design requirements. Exhaust make-up air can be transferred from the administrative and classroom area as long as sufficient ventilation air is provided in those areas to prevent negative air pressure in relation to the outside.

7.6.1.6. Weapons and Ammunition Storage. The vault provides secure storage for all weapons for which the CA section is responsible and a less-than-30-day supply of each type of ammunition used on the range. A gross floor area of 14 square meters (151 square feet) is usually adequate. Room construction must satisfy the requirements of AFI 31-101, *The Air Force Installation Security Program* (FOUO), and UFC 4-020-01, *Security Engineering: Project Development* (FOUO), for construction materials and specifications. Additionally, requirements of DOD 5100.76-M, *Physical Security of Sensitive Conventional Arms, Ammunition, and Explosives*, must be satisfied. In general, vault construction must provide a minimum ten minutes of forced entry delay. Typical vault construction features walls, floors, and roof of 200-millimeter (7.9-inch) concrete reinforced with two layers of number 4 rebar on 225-millimeter (9-inch) centers, fitted with a class V door. Maintain RH below 65 percent.

7.6.1.7. Latrines (Sanitary Facilities). Provide facilities for both men and women. Provide additional cold water hand-washing stations at the entrance to the CA building and at the firing range. The size of sanitary facilities depends upon the class size at that particular installation. Typically, the women's latrine need only accommodate about one-fourth the number of people as the men's latrine. Because instructors have daily contact with lead/heavy metals and may transfer these contaminants by casual contact, hand-washing stations, showers, changing areas, laundry facilities, and lockers should be provided for instructors to remove lead contamination. Use of these facilities will prevent recurring casual contamination and potential health concerns away from the range facilities. Cold water should be used for body washing to prevent lead absorption; do not use hot water since it opens the pores of the skin and permits easier absorption.

7.6.1.8. Student Weapons Cleaning Area/Room. Students must clean their weapons after completing firing. The cleaning area may be outside as long as it is covered; in cold climates, provide a room large enough to accommodate cleaning tables/benches and cleaning materials. Ensure the room is well ventilated and contains an emergency eye wash station.

7.6.1.9. Miscellaneous Storage. A storage area is required for administrative supplies, training aids, tools, and miscellaneous items. The size of this area is directly related to the type and quantity of training accomplished by the CA section.

7.6.2. Range Supplies and Equipment Storage. This building provides secure storage for miscellaneous range supplies, tools, and equipment. Use prefabricated metal, reinforced concrete, reinforced masonry, or wooden construction. Depending on location, type, and value of items stored, this facility may be combined with the target storage and repair building.

7.6.3. Range Target Storage and Repair Building. This facility provides space for repairing and storing targets and related equipment items, including target mechanisms and construction and repair material. Use prefabricated metal, reinforced concrete, masonry, or wooden construction. The repair space contains tables and workbenches. An electrical power source for operating power tools is required.

7.7. Specialty Weapons Ranges.

7.7.1. 40mm Grenade Launcher Range (Figure 3). The range supports firing of 40mm low-velocity grenades fired from M79 and M203 grenade launchers. The entire surface of the impact area must be cleared of vegetation or clipped extremely close during mowing so grenades will readily detonate on impact and EOD personnel can easily locate dud high-explosive rounds for disposal.

Construct targets using lumber, steel, or concrete. Terrain features, course of fire, and weather conditions determine if a spotting tower may be needed for observing the impact area (to note point of impact for adjustment of fire and for safety). Range personnel must be able to spot and mark dud rounds as they occur. A central tower high enough to permit observation of the entire range may be required. The range must have electrical power and lighting for the night-fire course.

7.7.2. LAW Range (Figure 4). The LAW range is set up for firing the M72 66mm rocket, the M73 35mm sub-caliber training device, and the AT-4. The danger zone to the rear of the launcher (Area F) must be clear of personnel, material, and vegetation. Arrange firing points so individual back-blast areas do not overlap.

7.7.3. Ten-Meter Machine Gun Range. If a non-contained machine gun range is not available, the machine gun must be fired on either a 10-meter tube range or on a fully contained range designed to accommodate the firing of the automatic weapon. Ten-meter machine gun ranges must incorporate range tubes as described in paragraphs 7.7.3.1 through 7.7.3.3. Range tubes function as baffles, thereby reducing the SDZ requirements. When the machine gun tube range is constructed in accordance with Figures 10 and 11, the SDZ length requirement is 700 meters measured downrange from the firing line. Range tubes are not required on a fully contained range designed for firing automatic weapons which has ballistic safety structures (baffles, traps, berms) designed to prevent penetration of the containment based on the ammunition being fired. Range tubes also are not required for a non-contained range with sufficient real estate to accommodate the full SDZ. The machine gun tube range is acceptable for M60/M240B/M249 machine guns.

7.7.3.1. Machine Gun Tubes.

7.7.3.1.1. If a non-contained machine gun range is not available, the 10-meter machine gun range tubes must measure at least 1.52 meters (5 feet) inside diameter by 7.3 meters (24 feet) in length. The tubes may be constructed of sectional pieces as long as the spigot end of the bell-spigot joint is pointed downrange. Tubes may be made of reinforced concrete pipe and must meet ASTM C76, *Standard Specification for Reinforced Concrete Culvert, Storm Drain and Sewer Pipe*, Class V reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) requirements, or may be steel pipe of suitable thickness fabricated from rolled plates. The interior of the tubes must have a smooth continuous surface. Repair any lifting lugs or holes so the tube interior is smooth and does not produce erratic ricochets.

7.7.3.1.2. For drainage, slope the tubes approximately 150 millimeters (6 inches) toward the target line. Firing positions must be at least 3.7 meters (12 feet) apart, measured center-to-center. The end of the tube toward the

shooter should touch the firing line. When firing, the muzzle of the machine gun will be at least 150 millimeters (6 inches) inside the tube (see Figures 10 and 11).

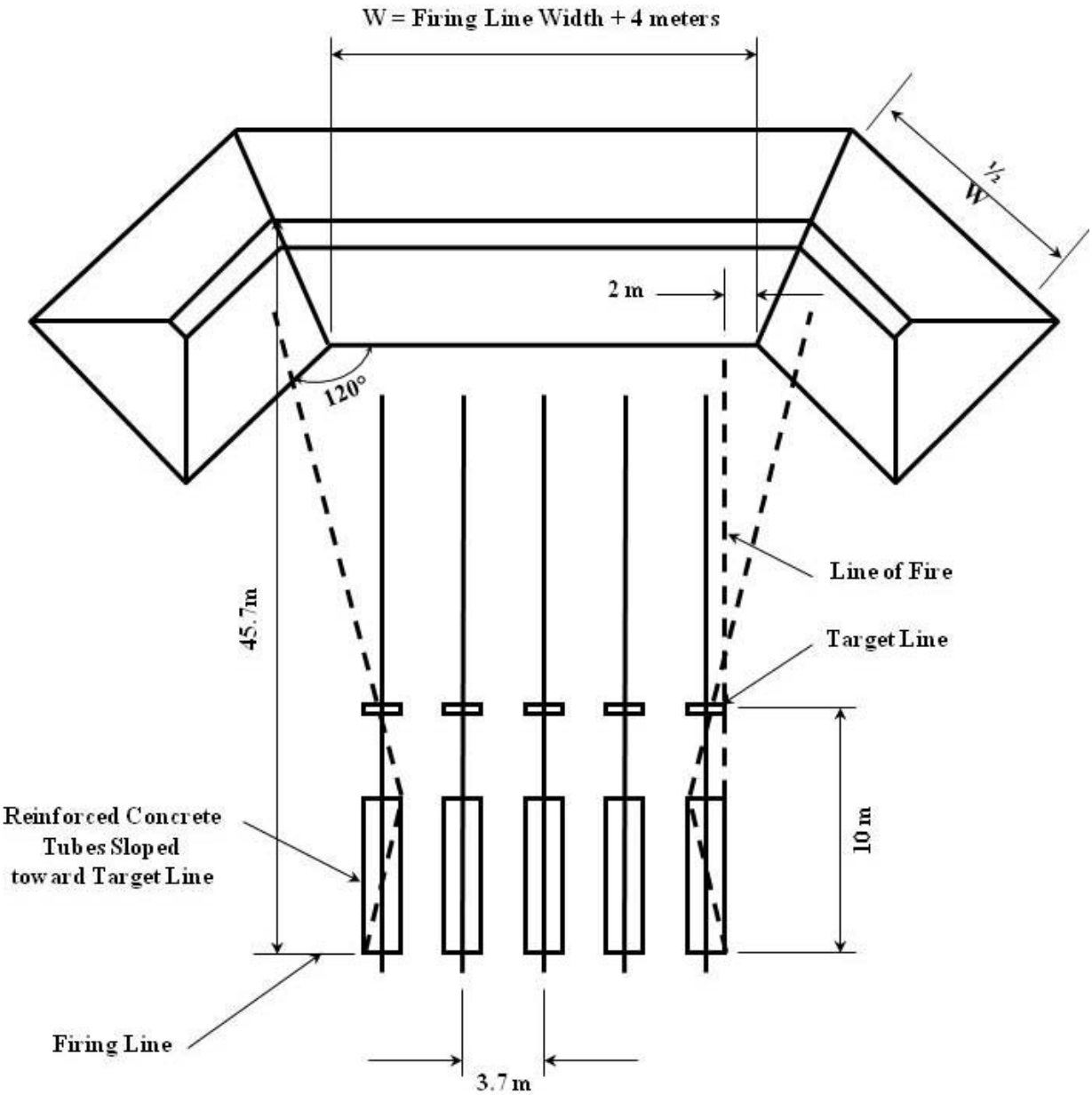

Figure 10. Machine Gun, 10-Meter Tube Range Typical Range Configuration

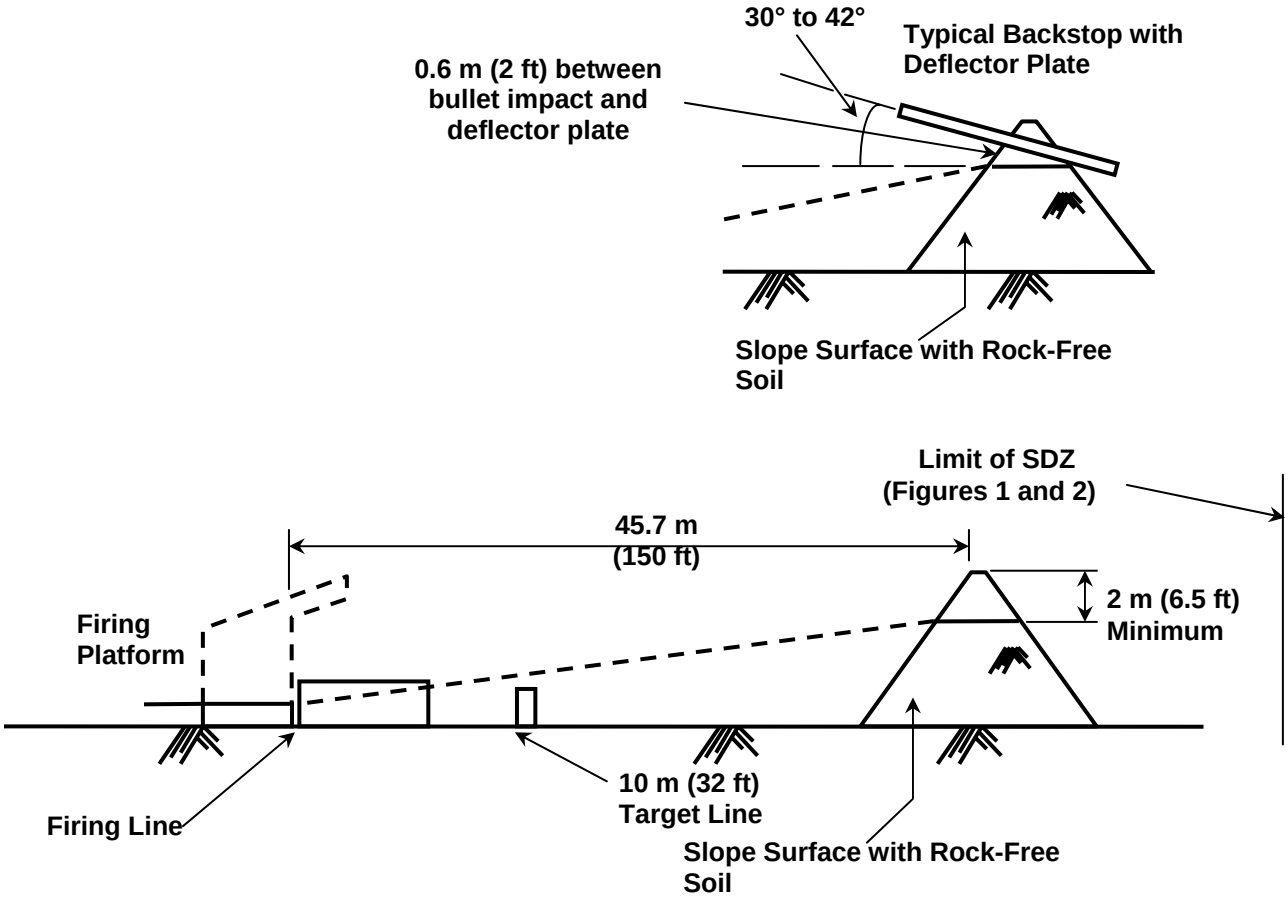

Figure 11. Machine Gun, 10-Meter Tube Range Typical Cross-Section

7.7.3.2. Firing Platform. Ensure that the firing tube placement and the firing platform height will place the muzzle of the machine gun at the approximate center of the tube diameter and at least 150 millimeters (6 inches) inside the tube. A recess in the platform may be needed, about 76 millimeters (3 inches) deep and large enough to accept a tripod.

7.7.3.3. Backstop/Deflector Plate/Bullet Trap. For berm backstops, locate the berm no more than 45.7 meters (150 feet) from the firing line to the centerline of the berm. The minimum height of the backstop is established by determining where a line drawn from the firing line to the backstop, and intersecting the highest point that a bullet could exit the target end of the tube, intersects the berm. This line must intersect the berm not less than 2 meters (6.5 feet) from the top. When a deflector plate is used, locate the deflector plate at least 0.6 meter (2 feet) above the bullet impact point on the berm. For metal trap backstops, locate the trap at least 25 meters (82 feet) away from the firing point. The line drawn from the firing point to trap shall intersect the top plate of the trap not less than 300 millimeters (12 inches) from the top, measured along the slope of the trap.

8. Design Review, Construction Inspection, Test Firing, and Trial Operation.

8.1. Design Approval. The design agent will submit a set of prefinal drawings and project specifications to the respective MAJCOM representatives of combat arms (CA), civil engineering (CE), safety (SE), and bioenvironmental engineering (SGPB) for review to ensure compliance with this ETL.

After MAJCOM approval is complete, HQ AFSFC/SFXW must approve all new range designs and major renovations (changes to the type or function of the range). This approval also applies to portable or trailer type ranges. HQ AFSFC/SFXW is the approval authority for deviations or waivers from design criteria and will coordinate requests with HQ AFCESA/CEOA.

8.2. Baffle Test Before Construction. For baffles which differ from the weapons and construction recommended in Table 3, construct baffle test blocks/cells using the baffle materials and construction details specified in the design documents. Completion of this test is required before construction and installation of the overhead baffles. From a protected position, a shooter will engage the test block/cell with direct fire from the most powerful round authorized for the range. The baffle test should have secondary containment to stop the round if it penetrates the test baffle. Do not test the baffle blocks/cells using tracers. Do not test baffles after they are installed in their overhead position. Conducting direct-fire tests following construction could be very unsafe and costly if the baffles fail to stop the round. Machine gun range tubes do not have to be tested if they meet the material requirements listed in paragraph 7.7.3.1.1.

8.3. Construction Inspection. The BCE will validate that the proper materials have been used and construction complies with the specifications and drawings. The range and its support facilities, when completed, must satisfy or exceed the requirements of this ETL. The materials, distances, and angles are critical to safety. Distances from the firing lines to target lines are critical and must be measured during construction and on completion of the range. On fully contained ranges, visually check baffles to make sure they overlap the required 150 millimeters (6 inches), there is no “blue sky” observed from any firing position or as one travels downrange toward the targets, and the HVAC system has been fully tested and commissioned.

8.4. Test Fire Requirements. After construction or rehabilitation, and before conducting training and qualification operations, CA personnel must accomplish controlled test-firing using tracer ammunition. If tracer ammunition cannot be safely fired on the range, CA personnel will fire ball ammunition with witness screens to conduct the test fire. Representatives of ground safety and CE will act as observers. The CA instructor will use the most powerful ammunition authorized for use on the range for the test. Remove all fire hazards from the range and areas surrounding the range. Make sure firefighting equipment is immediately available when conducting range tests using tracer ammunition. Provide sandbags or other protection for the

shooter during test firing. Hang witness screens of paper when firing non-tracer rounds to see if splash-back ricochets are occurring at the bullet trap when using the M855 round.

8.4.1. Non-contained Ranges. A test-fire is not required for a non-contained range. After the construction inspection confirms that the full SDZ land is available and all barriers, fences and signs are erected, proceed to trial operations.

8.4.2. Fully Contained Ranges. Do not test baffles with direct fire. Test baffles for direct-fired round containment before construction, as described in paragraph 8.2. To test for ricochet containment, the shooter first must fire service ammunition (non-tracer) from the prone position into the backstop and then at the floor. A test screen (witness) may be used to test the ricochet potential of the range floor. A test screen may be constructed from Celotex (National Stock Number [NSN] 5640-00-073-2803) or cardboard material, fashioned into a 1.2-meter by 1.2-meter (3.9-foot by 3.9-foot) four-sided cube. Place the test screen at different locations on the range floor. Fire into the range floor in front of the test screen at various angles from the firing line. To determine if ricochets would have left the range, sight along a small-diameter dowel placed through ricochet holes in the screen material. Take corrective measures if the angle of departure and the sighting verifies that the bullet left the range. To determine ricochet patterns, conduct tracer tests using the same caliber of ammunition to be used on the range. Using tracer ammunition is the fastest and most efficient method of determining ricochet patterns and hazard potential.

8.5. Trial Operations. Trial operation of a new or rehabilitated range is mandatory. The CA NCOIC and installation ground safety representative will be present during trial operations. Document the results of the trial operations in a range trial operation report. One copy of the trial operations report must be included in the construction acceptance documentation. The CA section will retain an additional copy on file for the life of the range. Include the following items in the report:

- Date of construction completion.
- Date of trial operation.
- Course of fire.
- Type of weapon, caliber, and ammunition used for the trial. (This must be the most powerful ammunition intended for use on the range.)
- Target system functioning (may be mechanical or fixed).
- Number of shooters who fired.
- Firing points used.
- Damage incurred or improperly functioning items.

9. Point of Contact. Recommendations for improvements to this ETL are encouraged and should be furnished to the Small Arms Range Program Manager, HQ AFCESA/CEOA, DSN 523-6332, commercial (850) 283-6332, e-mail AFCESAReachbackCenter@tyndall.af.mil

LESLIE C. MARTIN, Colonel, USAF
Director, Operations and Programs Support

3 Atchs
1. Minimum VDZ Height Requirements for Small Arms Ammunition for Non-contained Ranges
2. Operational Risk Management (ORM) Evaluation of Existing Range Facilities
3. Distribution List

MINIMUM VDZ HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION FOR NON-CONTAINED RANGES

Weapon/Caliber	Ammunition	Maximum Ordinate of Ammunition at 30° VDZ Meters (Feet)	Safety Factor Meters (Feet)	VDZ Height in Meters (Feet)
.22 long rifle		500 (1640)	175 (575)	675 (2215)
Handgun, .38 cal.	Ball, M41, PGU-12/B	500 (1640)	175 (575)	675 (2215)
Handgun, .45 cal. pistol		400 (1312)	160 (525)	560 (1837)
Submachine gun, .45 cal.		400 (1312)	160 (525)	560 (1837)
Handgun, .357 magnum		TBD	TBD	TBD
Handgun, 9mm pistol		500 (1640)	175 (575)	675 (2215)
Submachine gun, 9mm		TBD	TBD	TBD
Handgun, .44 magnum		TBD	TBD	TBD
Shotgun, 12 gauge	00 buckshot	200 (656)	130 (427)	330 (1083)
Rifle/machine gun, .30 caliber	Ball and M21	TBD	TBD	TBD
Carbine, .30 caliber		TBD	TBD	TBD
Rifle, 5.56mm	Ball, M193; tracer, M196	800 (2625)	220 (722)	1020 (3347)

Weapon/Caliber	Ammunition	Maximum Ordinate of Ammunition at 30° VDZ Meters (Feet)	Safety Factor Meters (Feet)	VDZ Height in Meters (Feet)
Rifle, 5.56mm	Ball M855; tracer, M856	900 (2953)	220 (722)	1120 (3675)
Rifle, 5.56mm	M862	TBD	TBD	TBD
Rifle/machine gun, 7.62mm	Ball, M80	1100 (3609)	265 (869)	1365 (4478)
Rifle/machine gun, 7.62mm	Match, M118	1200 (3937)	280 (919)	1480 (4856)
Machine gun, .50 cal.	Ball, M2 and M33/Tracer M17/M8 API/M20 APIT	1600 (5248)	340 (1115)	1940 (6365)
M79 and M203, 40mm low-velocity	M781/M407A1/M406/ M433/M381/M386/ M441	100 (328)	115 (377)	215 (705)
MK-19, 40mm high-velocity	M918/280M383/M430	500 (1640)	175 (575)	675 (2215)
M72 LAW, 35mm subcaliber	M73	300 (984)	145 (475)	445 (1460)
M72 Law, 66mm RKT HEAT	M72, 66 mm RKT HEAT	200 (656)	280 (919)	480 (1575)
AT4, 84mm RKT HEAT	M136	TBD	TBD	TBD

Notes:

1. VDZ in excess of 61 meters (200 feet) in height requires coordination with the local airfield manager.
2. Use a VDZ of 500 meters (1640 feet) for partially contained (baffled) ranges.

OPERATIONAL RISK MANAGEMENT (ORM) EVALUATION OF EXISTING RANGE FACILITIES

A2.1. Overview. Operational Risk Management (ORM) is a tool used to assess the risks associated with continued use of existing firing ranges that do not satisfy the minimum criteria outlined in this ETL. For further information on ORM, refer to AFI 90-901, *Operational Risk Management*, and AFPAM 90-902, *Operational Risk Management (ORM) Guidelines and Tools*. This attachment gives an example of how the ORM process can be applied to a safety evaluation of an existing range. Briefly, the ORM process can be considered to be a six-step process:

1. Identify the hazard
2. Assess the risk
3. Analyze risk control measures
4. Make control decisions
5. Implement risk controls
6. Supervise and review

A2.2. Action Items. The six steps of the process can be broken down into several sub-steps called "actions." A discussion of each action follows.

A2.2.1. Identify the Hazard. This step has three actions:

- Mission/task analysis (e.g., training personnel to fire weapons)
- Listing the hazards (e.g., fired rounds leaving the range)
- Listing the causes (e.g., baffles are of insufficient thickness)

Listing the causes of the hazards is the action where deficiencies or discrepancies are items that are found to not satisfy the ETL criteria. A tabular method for recording these actions and steps is presented in the following paragraphs.

A2.2.2. Assess the Risk. This step has three actions:

A2.2.2.1. Assess hazard severity category:

- I Catastrophic (i.e., mission failure, death, system loss)
- II Critical (i.e., major mission impact, severe injury, or major system loss)
- III Moderate (i.e., minor mission impact, injury, or system damage)
- IV Negligible (i.e., little mission impact, minor injury, or damage)

A2.2.2.2. Assess the mishap probability:

- A – Frequent, daily, often, 10^{-1} to 10^{-4}
- B – Likely, three weeks, occurs several times, 10^{-2} to 10^{-4}
- C – Occasional, six months, will occur, 10^{-3} to 10^{-5}
- D – Seldom, five years, could occur, 10^{-4} to 10^{-6}
- E – Unlikely, past five years has not occurred, rarely, 10^{-5} to 10^{-7}

A2.2.2.3. Assign a numerical rating based on the combination of steps A2.2.2.1 and A2.2.2.2. See Table A2.1 for the numerical value to assign to the risk.

Table A2.1. Mishap Probability

Severity		Frequent A	Likely B	Occasional C	Seldom D	Unlikely E
Catastrophic	I	1	2	6	8	12
Critical	II	3	4	7	11	15
Moderate	III	5	9	10	14	16
Negligible	IV	13	17	18	19	20

Note: Lower numbers indicate the highest risk.

A2.2.3. Analyze Risk-Control Measures. This step has three actions:

A2.2.3.1. Identify risk control options: Measures taken to mitigate the risk.

A2.2.3.2. Determine control effects: Select the control options desired for consideration.

A2.2.3.3. Determine the residual risk: Prioritize the control measures and re-score the risk based on the implemented control measures using the same procedures in paragraph A2.2.2.3.

A2.2.4. Make Control Decisions. This step has two actions:

A2.2.4.1. Select the risk control measures to implement.

A2.2.4.2. Decide whether the residual risk level is acceptable or not.

A2.2.5. Implement Risk Controls. This step has three actions:

A2.2.5.1. Make the implementation clear to all parties.

A2.2.5.2. Establish accountability and responsibility for implementing risk-control measures.

A2.2.5.3. Provide support to those tasked to implement the control measures.

A2.2.6. Supervise and Review. There are two actions in this step:

A2.2.6.1. Supervise the implementation of the control measures.

A2.2.6.2. Review the effectiveness of the control measures.

A2.3. Example. The following example shows a tabular method for performing the operational risk assessment for existing firing ranges. The example shows discrepancies taken from an actual assessment made at a real world Air Force base.

BASE "X" FIRING RANGE
OPERATIONAL RISK EVALUATION

Discrepancy	ORM STEP 1	ORM STEP 2			ORM STEP 3		ORM STEP 4	ORM STEP 5	ORM STEP 6
	Hazard	Severity	Probability	Risk	Control Options	Residual Risk	Decision	Implementation	Results
Baffle materials do not meet ETL guidelines	Shoot through the baffle and bullets leave the range containment	I	C	6	Add additional thickness to baffles, or replace with correct material	Repair or replace will yield I,E=12	12	Make repairs	Compare as-built repairs with ETL guidelines
Baffle materials or slopes do not meet ETL guidelines	Ricochet	II	C	7	Install plywood facing on two baffles nearest the shooter, frangible ammunition	Install plywood facing is II,D=11. Frangible ammunition is III,E=16	16	Buy frangible ammunition	Verify ammunition performs as advertised
Baffle materials or slopes do not meet ETL guidelines	Lead pollution, outside of containment	II	C	7	Lead-free ammunition, frangible ammunition	Lead Free is IV,E=20. Frangible ammo is III, D= 14	20	Buy lead-free ammunition	Verify that lead ammunition is no longer being used
Side wall berm has an opening that is visible to some firing positions	Bullets leave the range containment	I	A	1	Fill in the opening or establish a procedure to not use those firing positions	Fill opening is IV,D=19. Procedure is II,E=15	19	Fill in opening	Re-inspect to verify opening has been closed
Side wall berm has an opening that is visible to some firing positions	Lead pollution, outside of containment	II	A	3	Fill in the opening or establish a procedure to not use those firing positions; lead monitoring program; lead-free ammunition	Fill opening is IV,D=19. Procedure is II,E=15. Lead Monitoring is II,E=15, Lead Free Ammo is IV,E=20	19	Fill in opening	Re-inspect to verify opening has been closed
Surface water runoff can leave the range	Lead pollution, outside of containment	II	C	7	Water monitoring program, including surface water samples and groundwater monitoring wells	Monitoring program is II,E=15	15	Install monitoring wells and hire environmental testing firm	Regular reports documenting monitoring results

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