



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

APVR-RDZ

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY ALASKA  
600 RICHARDSON DRIVE #5000  
FORT RICHARDSON, ALASKA 99505-5000

14 OCT 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Small Arms Weapons Safety (CG/CofS Policy Statement #0-34)

1. References:

- a. Soldier Training Publication (STP) 21-1-SMCT, Soldier's Manual of Common Tasks Skill Level 1, 1 April 2003.
- b. Technical Manual (TM) 9-1005-306-10, Operators Manual 7.62mm M24 Sniper Weapon System, 23 June 1989.
- c. United States Army Alaska (USARAK) Regulation 385-1, Safety Program.

2. Weapons safety has always been and continues to be a product of effective leadership and good training. Prevention of friendly fire incidents is a fundamental requirement for combat ready units. Accidental discharges, fratricide and indisciplined fire incidents do not occur in good units, it's that simple. Prevention of these incidents is predicated on proper target identification, constant muzzle awareness, and strict adherence to weapons control status. Commanders in U.S. Army Alaska will ensure their units meet the following standards:

- a. Commanders and leaders will ensure all Soldiers are properly trained on how and when to clear a weapon and standards of weapons handling (Enclosure 1). These procedures will be enforced whenever weapons are issued. Muzzle awareness will be trained and enforced whenever Soldiers handle their weapons.
- b. Weapons control status levels (Enclosure 2) and rules of engagement will be clearly defined for each mission profile and established for all troop locations. Weapons control status will be trained routinely in livefire and blankfire Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement System training.
- c. Commanders may construct clearing barrels (Enclosure 3) where units share facilities and where weapons must be routinely cleared or where a lack of training proficiency requires this risk mitigation method. Weapons clearing procedures will be posted next to clearing barrels for ready reference. Clearing barrels are not required for Range Operations due to existing detailed clearing procedures outlined in Range SOPs.

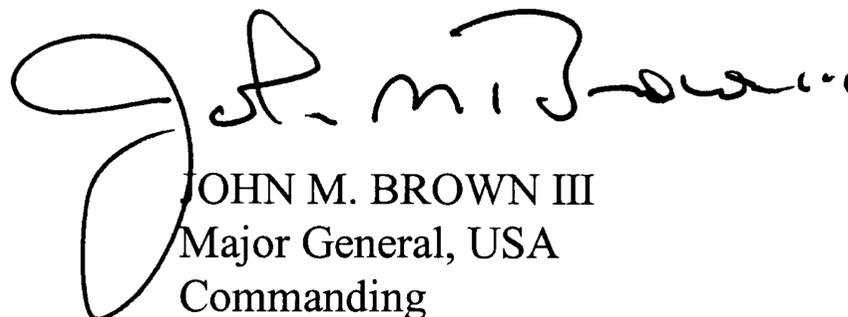
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d. Clearing procedures are not the same as unload procedures. Clearing procedures are the steps necessary to verify that a weapon is safe. Clearing procedures must be performed according to the weapons technical manual. Instructions for clearing the M4, M9, M16, M24, M240, and M249 are in STP 21-1-SMCT. Instructions for clearing the M24 are in TM 9-1005-306-10 (Enclosure 4).

e. All accidental weapon discharges involving live ammunition will be reported with a serious incident report (SIR) through the chain of command.

3. Leaders throughout the entire chain of command will strictly enforce weapons safety procedures. Commanders will ensure soldiers are proficient with a weapon before issuing an individual weapons card.



JOHN M. BROWN III  
Major General, USA  
Commanding

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