

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
Fort Hood, Texas 76544

FH REGULATION
NO. 525-8

14 January 1983

Military Operations
RANGE CLEARANCE OPERATIONS

Local supplementation by subordinate headquarters is prohibited unless specifically approved by this headquarters.

1. PURPOSE. To establish procedures for the conduct of range clearance (dedudiving) operations on the Fort Hood Military Reservation.

2. GENERAL.

a. Range clearance operations will be conducted according to AR 385-63, Policies and Procedures for Firing Ammunition for Training, Target Practice, and Combat with FH Supplement 1, AR 75-15, Responsibilities and Procedures for Explosive Ordnance Disposal with FORSCOM Supplement 1 and this regulation.

b. Planning a range clearance is as important as the actual conduct of the clearance. The ACofS, G3/DPT, III Corps and Fort Hood has primary responsibility for range clearance and will task Major Subordinate Commands for planning and execution.

3. DEFINITIONS.

a. Dud: Any munition, excluding misfires, which fails to function as designed and as a result of malfunction becomes hazardous and unpredictable.

b. EOD Party: Explosive ordnance disposal, (EOD) personnel assigned to support a range clearance operation and controlled by the EOD OIC.

c. Staking Party: A composite force of an officer in charge (OIC), noncommissioned officer in charge (NCOIC), EOD party, medics, and stakers, the size of which is determined by the area to be covered and the time allocated for the clearance.

d. Staker: An individual whose responsibilities include searching for, locating and marking items of ordnance within his assigned area and notification of EOD personnel for classification and disposition of these items.

e. Operation LIFESAVER: The code name for the aerial evacuation of casualties at Fort Hood, frequency 38.30.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. ACofS, G3/DPT Operations Division:

- (1) Determine the major unit to be assigned the mission.
- (2) Prepare mission letters IAW current Ft Hood tasking procedures.

b. Range Division, ACofS, G3/DPT:

- (1) Determine the areas to be cleared.
- (2) Schedule range and impact area to ensure access to the clearance operation area.
- (3) Provide marking stakes for staking parties
- (4) Monitor FM communications on frequency 30.45 and 38.30.
- (5) Coordinate the entry and departure of the troop unit conducting range clearance into and out of the impact area.
- (6) Provide sample letter of instruction to project OIC.

c. Designated troop unit:

- (1) Appoint a project OIC.
- (2) Coordinate with the EOD officer and Range Division for recommendations on the conduct of the clearance.
- (3) Ensure that the project OIC has read and completely understands all pertinent regulations.
- (4) Perform a ground reconnaissance of the area to be cleared. Aerial reconnaissance is desirable but not mandatory. Reconnaissance should be coordinated with the EOD OIC.
- (5) Prepare a detailed plan, in conjunction with the Range Officer and EOD personnel, for the conduct of the range clearance operation. For planning purposes, one staking party (100 stakers) can cover approximately 1,000 square meters per day in open terrain.
- (6) Thoroughly brief all personnel on the procedures of Operation LIFESAVER.
- (7) Coordinate with the Range Division and EOD for accomplishing necessary preparation of the area to be cleared, i.e., burning of tall grass and dense brush.

d. EOD personnel:

- (1) Act as safety advisors to the project OIC.
- (2) Conduct safety briefings.
- (3) Inspect and ensure appropriate disposition of every item found during the clearance.
- (4) Record and report the quantity and lot numbers of all abandoned ammunition found during the range clearance to Post Ammunition Section.

e. Staking Party personnel:

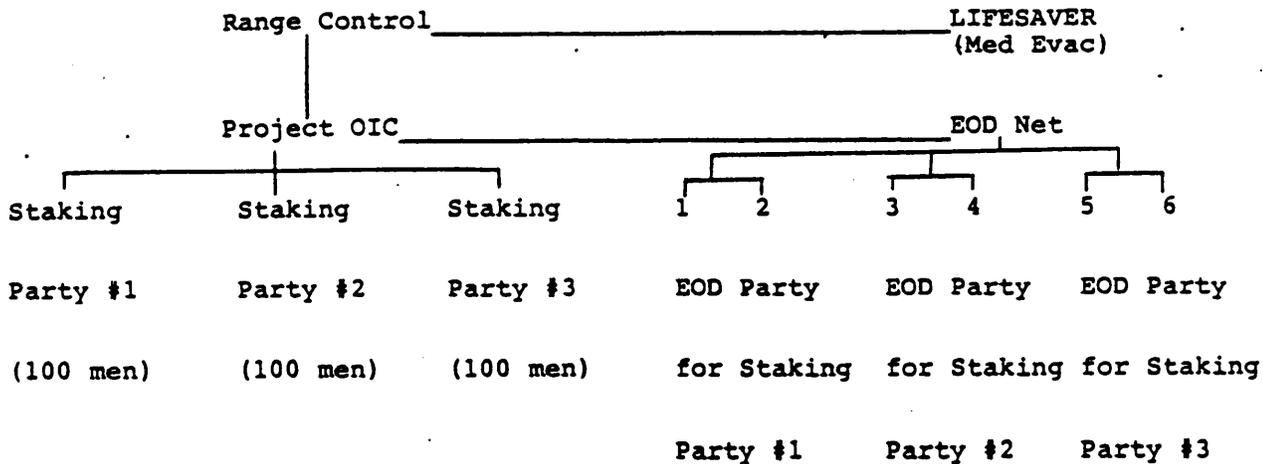
- (1) Stakes will not be placed closer than 6 feet to any ordnance item.
- (2) Call EOD personnel to inspect any item or ordnance located during the sweeps. NO ONE WILL TOUCH OR DISTURB ANY ITEM ENCOUNTERED unless authorized to do so by EOD personnel.

5. IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS. A sample letter of instruction is available at G3/DPT Range Division which covers all aspects of range clearance operations.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Adequate radios will be available for all elements concerned before beginning the operation.
- b. The project OIC will have two radios, one to be used to maintain communications with Range Control and one (the project CP net) to control the staking parties. The OIC will cease all operations if communication with Range Control is interrupted or lost.
- c. The EOD OIC will also have two radios, one to monitor the project CP net and one to control the EOD net.
- d. Each member of the EOD party must have a radio which will net with the radios of the other EOD parties and the EOD OIC.
- e. Each staking party OIC will have a radio tuned to the project OIC net frequency.

f. A typical net would be as follows:



7. SAFETY.

a. Maximum emphasis will be placed on safety of personnel involved in deduinding operations.

b. Safety will not be sacrificed for speed.

c. All personnel will be briefed by EOD personnel before entering the impact area each day. If personnel are changed during the day, the project OIC will ensure that they are thoroughly briefed before entering the impact area.

d. The project OIC will ensure that the impact area is clear of all personnel before EOD parties begin demolitions operations at the end of the day.

e. The project OIC will obtain clearance from Range Control prior to any personnel entering the impact area. When all personnel are clear of the impact area, Range Control will be notified.

8. REFERENCE. Related publication. TM 9-1300-206.

The proponent of this regulation is the ACofS, G3/DPT. Users are invited to send comments and suggested improvements to the Commander, III Corps and Fort Hood, ATTN: AFZF-DPT-TR.

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