

New Range Safety Pocket Guide

By Edward Sobieranski, USMC Range Safety Manager

The Marine Corps Range and Training Area Management Division recently published a new Range Safety Pocket Guide. This tool gives Marines the basic information to effectively supervise live-fire training and to assist junior officers and staff noncommissioned officers in their duties and responsibilities as range officers in charge (OICs) and range safety officers (RSOs).

The pocket guide offers a quick and ready reference in the field for developing a training plan. It also provides standards and procedures for the safe firing of ammunition, demolitions, lasers, guided missiles, and rockets for training. When standards conflict with those of other military services, federal agencies, or host nations, the standards providing the higher degree of protection apply.

The pocket guide summarizes range-safety policy on the following functional areas:

- Surface danger zones as minimum safety standards.
- Range-safety responsibilities for the unit commander, OIC, and RSO for all ranges, especially for live-fire training.
- Procedures for ammunition and explosives, including positioning, issuing, and suspending of ammunition and explosives involved in malfunctions. It also includes UXO and misfire procedures, reporting, disposition of ammunition, and explosives involved in malfunctions and accidents.
- Risk-management principles and deviation authorities. The guide applies the operational risk-management process to identify and control range hazards.

The pocket guide has a hard-plastic, weather-resistant cover and plastic pages that resist tearing. The guide's surface danger zone (SDZ) tem-

plates are for the 20 most commonly used weapons. The SDZ templates are a valuable tool to assist in planning and managing risk. These SDZs are printed on transparent pages drawn to typical military map scale (1:50,000 and 1:25,000), so they quickly and easily can be transferred to maps to support planning. The pocket guide also provides a live-fire checklist and risk-management worksheet to assist the user in planning for a training exercise.

The Range and Training Area Management Division has distributed more than 7,000 pocket guides to operational forces, bases, stations, and service schools. They currently are being distributed through the local installation range-control offices. You can download the guide at <http://rtam.tecom.usmc.mil/rm/>. When printing from the PDF version, take care to print only the original download. Expanding the file to "fit to page" will change the dimensions of the SDZs, and they no longer will be to scale.

Since the pocket guide is a summary, it isn't intended to cover every aspect of range safety. Marine Corps Order (MCO) 3570.1B and Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 385-63 are the source documents for the Marine Corps range safety program and form the basis for the pocket guide. **GW**

For guidance not covered in sufficient detail in the pocket guide, refer to MCO 3570.1B, DA PAM 385-63 or TECOM Safety Of Use Memorandums (SOUM).



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