



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION
UNIT 24309
APO AE 09252

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AETV-THZ

5 December 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: General Order—Clearing of Weapons

1. Purpose. This order establishes a uniform procedure for clearing individual weapons during the performance of Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) Guard duty. It also establishes a uniform procedure for leader confirmation of each AT/FP guard's ability to execute the clearing procedure properly.
2. Applicability. This order is applicable throughout the jurisdiction for which I am general court-martial convening authority.
3. Punitive Order. This order is punitive. Persons subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) who violate this order may be punished under Article 92, UCMJ, for violating a lawful general order.
4. Terminology. In this order, the Sergeant of the Guard is the senior noncommissioned officer of the Guard, the Commander of the Relief is the senior noncommissioned officer of a patrol or fixed post within the Guard, and Guard Mount is the process of assembling, forming, and inspecting the Guard prior to assumption of duties. See Field Manual 22-6, *Guard Duty*. These terms are also inclusive of commissioned officers who, for various reasons, may assume duty positions in AT/FP Guard.
5. Clearing Procedures. Individuals serving AT/FP Guard and Commanders of the Relief will perform the following steps:
 - a. M9 Pistol:
 - (1) Unholster weapon and point into the clearing barrel.
 - (2) Place the weapon on safe.
 - (3) Remove the magazine from the weapon and hand it to Commander of the Relief.
 - (4) Pull the slide to the rear and lock slide to rear.
 - (5) Observe the chamber to ensure no round is chambered.
 - (6) Pause as Commander of the Relief inspects chamber to ensure no round is chambered.
 - (7) Pause as Commander of the Relief gently rods the weapon with a cleaning rod.
 - (8) Let the slide go forward.
 - (9) Ensure weapon still points into the clearing barrel.
 - (10) Place weapon on fire.
 - (11) Squeeze the trigger.
 - (12) Place weapon on safe.
 - (13) When Commander of the Relief hands the magazine back, place it in ammo pouch.

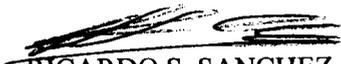
b. M16/M4 Rifle:

- (1) Point weapon into the clearing barrel.
- (2) Place the weapon on SAFE.
- (3) Remove the magazine from the weapon and hand it to Commander of the Relief.
- (4) Pull the bolt to the rear and lock the bolt to rear.
- (5) Observe the chamber to ensure no round is chambered.
- (6) Pause as Commander of the Relief inspects chamber to ensure no round is chambered.
- (7) Pause as Commander of the Relief gently rods the weapon with a cleaning rod.
- (8) Let the bolt go forward.
- (9) Ensure weapon still points into the clearing barrel.
- (10) Place weapon on SEMI.
- (11) Squeeze the trigger.
- (12) Pull the bolt to the rear and release it, letting it go forward.
- (13) Place weapon on SAFE.
- (14) When Commander of the Relief hands the magazine back, place it in ammo pouch.

6. Confirmation Procedure. Each Commander of the Relief will confirm that each named individual in his Relief has successfully rehearsed, during Guard Mount, each and every step in the applicable clearing procedure above. The Sergeant of the Guard will receive a report from the Commanders of the Relief that every soldier is able to clear his weapon to standard. Commanders will ensure these confirmation reports are being rendered each and every Guard Mount and that they are accurate.

7. Posting. Commanders will ensure that this order is posted at every clearing barrel in such a manner that allows soldiers and leaders to refer to it if required.

8. Well-trained and disciplined units do not discharge rounds when clearing weapons. An unintended discharge is negligence. The uniform clearing and confirmation procedures in this order provide identifiable, rote standards to ensure negligent discharges cease. Train and execute these tasks to standard. Confirm that every soldier is up to standard. Do it during each Guard Mount, and do it by the numbers. This will increase confidence with individual weapons, will prevent complacency, and will safeguard our soldiers and the communities they defend.


RICARDO S. SANCHEZ
Major General, USA
Commanding

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