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CRITICAL COMBAT PERFORMANCES, KNOWLEDGES, AND SKILLS REQUIRED OF THE INFANTRY RIFLE SQUAD LEADER

Rifle, 7.62-MM, M14A1

by
Frank L. Brown

December 1968

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The George Washington University
HUMAN RESOURCES RESEARCH OFFICE

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Technical Advisory Service

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HumRRO Division No. 4
(Infantry)

The George Washington University
HUMAN RESOURCES RESEARCH OFFICE
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FOREWORD

In response to a request from the United States Army Infantry School (USAIS), HumRRO Division No. 4 (Infantry) initiated a Technical Advisory Service research project to identify and record the critical combat performances, knowledges, and skills required of the Infantry Rifle Squad Leader and the Infantry Fire Team Leader.

The requirements imposed upon the IRSL and IFTL are essentially the same, except that the former is responsible for the control of the men and fires of both fire teams in a rifle squad, rather than only one. The senior IFTL within each squad must be prepared to assume effective leadership of the squad immediately if the IRSL becomes a casualty, completes a prescribed combat tour, or is absent for any reason. Since it is common practice to provide the same training for candidates for both positions of leadership and to employ the outstanding candidates in the higher position, each paper in this series will set forth the critical requirements imposed upon the IRSL and, therein, those imposed upon the IFTL as well.

Under Work Unit LEAD, Work Sub-Unit I, the critical combat performances, knowledges, and skills of the Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader were published in a series of 41 papers covering a like number of subject areas. Each paper was published with prior review and concurrence by the USAIS Instructional Departments concerned. These papers are being used as the primary source of data in completing a parallel series of papers for the Infantry Rifle Squad Leader and the Infantry Fire Team Leader. This document details the requirements of the rifle, 7.62-mm, M14A1.

This Technical Advisory Service research is being performed at HumRRO Division No. 4 (Infantry), Fort Benning, Georgia. The present Director of Research is Dr. T. O. Jacobs.

Military support for the study is being provided by the U.S. Army Infantry Human Research Unit, Fort Benning, Georgia. LTC Chester I. Christie, Jr. is the present Unit Chief.

HumRRO research is conducted under Army Contract DA 44-188-ARO-2 and under Army Project 2J024701A712 01, Training, Motivation and Leadership Research.

Meredith P. Crawford
Director
Human Resources Research Office

RIFLE, 7.62-MM, M14A1

General Considerations

Introduction

The rifle, 7.62-mm, M14A1, is a lightweight, air-cooled, gas-operated, magazine-fed, shoulder weapon designed primarily for the delivery of bipod-supported, automatic fire out to a range of 460 meters. In the hands of a skilled rifleman, the weapon will deliver effective semiautomatic fire from bipod-supported firing positions out to approximately 700 meters with properly adjusted sights. The bipod also facilitates the delivery of grazing, automatic fire during all levels of visibility. The M14A1 is the only source of stable, bipod-supported, automatic fire available directly to the IRSL and IFTL in units equipped with 7.62-mm weapons. To train and supervise the automatic riflemen within his squad, the IRSL must be able to demonstrate his own ability to fire and maintain the weapon effectively. He must anticipate casualties and losses due to rotation among his automatic riflemen and ensure that supernumeraries are trained to take over the weapon in combat when necessary. He must provide periodic practice to maintain a level of proficiency that will ensure the heaviest possible volume of lethal fire during contact with the enemy.

Scope

This paper sets forth the knowledges, skills, and performances required of the IRSL to use and supervise the use of the M14A1 rifle to deliver effective automatic and semiautomatic fire. Inspection, zeroing, sight-setting, the engagement of stationary and moving targets from point-blank to maximum effective range during all levels of visibility, fire distribution, reloading, maintenance, safety, and destruction to prevent capture are covered in adequate detail. The IRSL is cast in the role of the automatic rifleman for the purpose of this paper and it is assumed that his mastery of the critical knowledges, skills, and performances will ensure the adequate training and supervision of the automatic riflemen assigned to his squad. Target detection is covered in the paper on Observation, Combat Intelligence, and Reporting. The use of binoculars and night-vision devices to aid target acquisition and the adjustment of fire are covered in Use of Indirect Supporting Fires (binoculars) and Infrared Weaponsight and Image Intensification Devices. Additional directly related material is covered in Technique of Fire of the Rifle Squad; Mounted and Dismounted Platoon Combat Formations; Cover, Concealment, and Camouflage; Physical Conditioning; and the papers covering tactical operations.

Battlefield Cues

Orders or instructions from commanders pertinent to the use or maintenance of the .114A1.

Known or suspected enemy targets, e.g., personnel, weapons positions, vulnerable surface vehicles and craft, and aircraft within effective range of the weapon with battlesight zero.

Vulnerable targets between 500 and 700 meters requiring sight adjustment for effective engagement with semiautomatic fire.

Targets within fields of fire under 500 meters that will permit the effective use of automatic fire from bipod-supported positions.

Known or suspected locations of enemy small-unit combat formations vulnerable to effective distributed fire within limits determined by the automatic rifleman or designated by others.

Close, dangerous targets requiring the use of pointing fire ("Quick Kill" techniques) as opposed to aiming with sights.

Enemy halting at end of rushes or rising to commence rushes.

Visible bullet strike, particularly between the firer and the target, indicating a need to adjust the aiming point to deliver effective fire.

Limited visibility requiring use of pointing techniques (as opposed to aiming with sights) and delivery of prearranged grazing fire with bipods, stakes, rests, etc., to control direction of fire, elevation, and lateral distribution.

Possible, but unidentified, targets, particularly when perceived during limited visibility, i.e., possibility of delivering lethal fire against unidentified friendly personnel.

Availability of binoculars and night-vision devices to aid target acquisition and the adjustment of fire.

Tracer fire from own weapon indicating a need to reload or stoppage caused by empty magazine.

Time and the availability of cleaning materials immediately after prolonged firing or after exposure to harmful environment.

Dirt, rust, carbon, etc., requiring cleaning to ensure effective delivery of fire.

Broken, worn, or missing parts discovered during inspection or during routine maintenance.

Failure of the weapon to fire, unlock, extract, eject, cock, feed, chamber, or lock.

Failure of the weapon to fire automatically or sluggish delivery of automatic fire, i.e., indication of loose gas cylinder plug.

Repeated failure to hit targets during zeroing or in combat.

Excessive dust and dirt in the air from wind, aircraft rotors, or propellers.

Accidental discharge of the weapon or unsafe handling by any soldier.

Failure of any automatic rifleman to deliver effective fire during contact with the enemy.

Swelling, cracking, or drying of stock due to exposure to weather.

Heavy rain or inadvertent submersion in water or mud, particularly in salt water.

Freezing weather where heated bunkers or other warm shelters may cause moisture to condense on weapons brought in from the cold with resultant freezing upon being exposed to outside temperatures.

Extended bipods around or within aircraft (likely to damage aircraft) or in heavy brush where the extended bipod will impede movement and slow weapons handling.

Any automatic rifle slung behind the shoulder when the weaponsman's hands are free (i.e., when he is not carrying a load that requires use of both hands or using his hands to climb, etc.) and contact is possible.

Any automatic rifle left out of arm's reach by the soldier armed with it when contact is possible.

Imminent threat of capture of the M14A1 and accessories, particularly to night-vision devices mounted on or used with the weapon.

Materiel

U.S. rifle, 7.62-mm, M14A1, with bipod and sling.

20-round magazines.

Standard ball and tracer ammunition.

5-round cartridge clips.

Magazine filler.

Standard set of maintenance equipment plus toothbrush or shaving brush.

Patches and cleaning rags.

Bore cleaner and lubricants specific to the environment.

Locally procured stakes, logs, boards, etc., for use to aid effective delivery of grazing fire during limited visibility.

Field-expedient pouches and thin plastic sheeting for carrying and protecting ammunition not carried in the belt pouches.

Performances, Knowledges, and Skills

1. UPON INITIAL ISSUE OF AN M14A1 RIFLE, THE IRSL WILL ENSURE THAT THE WEAPON IS CLEAN, PROPERLY LUBRICATED, COMPLETE, AND READY TO FIRE.

He will : remove the magazine and clear the weapon to ensure against a live round in the chamber. 1

: ensure the availability of maintenance equipment, i.e., combination tool, chamber cleaning brush, plastic case of lubricant, cleaning rod (4 sections), cleaning rod case, slotted cleaning patch holder, bore-cleaning brush, patches, bore cleaner, and dry-cleaning solvent, if the latter is necessary to remove heavy grease, etc. 2

: field-strip the weapon, inspect parts, and replace any missing, broken, or worn parts. 3

: clean, lubricate, and assemble the weapon; check for functioning, including safety; and leave the bore dry (not oiled) in preparation for zeroing. 4

2. THE IRSL WILL TEST FIRE THE M14A1 RIFLE AND OBTAIN A 250-METER BATTLESIGHT ZERO BY USE OF THE 25-METER METHOD AS SOON AFTER RECEIPT OF THE WEAPON AS POSSIBLE.

He must : habitually make the prescribed prefiring checks on the weapon in preparation for firing, i.e.: 5

(1) Set the selector for the type of fire desired.

(2) Loosen the butt end of the sling to facilitate loading and changing magazines, and adjust the forward end so that torque is applied to the bipod sling swivel when rearward pressure is placed on the front handgrip.

(3) Check the spindle valve to ensure that the slot is perpendicular to the barrel to permit proper functioning in automatic or semiautomatic fire.

(4) Tighten the gas cylinder plug with the combination tool, and recognize sluggish firing or failure to fire automatically as a probable indication of a loose gas cylinder plug.

(5) Check the stabilizer assembly lock nut to ensure that it is securely tightened against the locking bracket, and tighten periodically during extensive firing to eliminate looseness resulting from vibration caused by recoil.

(6) Ensure that the extension assemblies on the bipod legs are fully extended and locked by the pivot plungers. (The average firer will obtain maximum accuracy with the bipod legs fully extended. If the firer cannot obtain a correct sight picture while using the prescribed body position and applying the steady hold factors, the extension assemblies may be lowered.)

(7) Check the rear sight tension and ensure that the sight is set with the correct number of clicks of elevation and windage. (Use 12 clicks of elevation and zero windage pending determination of the 250-meter battlesight zero.)

He will : recognize the economy of time and space and the convenience of establishing a 250-meter battlesight zero at a range of 25 meters; diagram (e.g., make a sketch on the ground) the trajectory of the bullet and the line of sight as related to targets at 25 meters and at 250 meters; and explain to his men in simple language how the automatic rifle can be zeroed to hit the point of aim at 250 meters by firing at an appropriate target on a 25-meter range. 6

: to zero the M14A1 rifle (or to supervise the zeroing of his subordinates' rifles) at 25 meters, use a distinctive (e.g., black) aiming point 3 centimeters high by 7 centimeters wide on a contrasting background with a safe stop or restricted area to the rear of the target. 7

: anticipate that the average firer will need to fire a series of three or four 3-round shot groups to accurately determine the battlesight zero of his rifle. 8

He must : set the rear sight at 12 clicks of elevation and zero windage with proper tension; use either the bipod-supported prone or bipod-supported foxhole position for maximum steadiness and accuracy; aim at the bottom center of the rectangular aiming point; and fire a 3-round shot group using semiautomatic fire. 9

: obtain a 3-round shot group that will fall within a 3-centimeter diameter circle prior to commencing sight adjustment. (Ideally, men selected to serve as automatic riflemen will have previously qualified as experts in the delivery of semiautomatic fire with the M14 rifle.) 10

: know that the bullet strike for a correct 250-meter battlesight zero will be 4.6 centimeters directly above the point of aim. 11

: know that each click of either windage or elevation placed on the rear sight will move the bullet strike .7 centimeters (slightly more than 1/4 inch) on a target at 25 meters, and 7.5 centimeters (approximately 3 inches) on a target at 250 meters. 12

: to adjust the rear sight while zeroing, move the rear sight in the same direction that it is desired to move the shot group on the target, e.g., to raise the bullet strike on the target, raise the rear sight; to move the strike to the right, move the windage to the right. 13

: based upon the results of successive shot groups, adjust the rear sight until the center of the shot group appears 4.6 centimeters directly above the point of aim. 14

He will : upon completion of zeroing, calibrate his rear sight; instruct his automatic riflemen in rear sight calibration, using the correct procedure for sights with locking nuts and for those without locking nuts; and require each man concerned to know (memorize) the serial number of the assigned weapon and the 250-meter battlesight zero for the assigned weapon. 15

3. THE IRSL WILL, AT RANGES UP TO APPROXIMATELY 700 METERS, UNDER TIME PRESSURE VARYING FROM GREAT TO NONE, ENGAGE AND SUPERVISE THE ENGAGEMENT OF TARGETS SUCH AS OBSERVED STATIONARY, MOVING, SINGLE- AND MULTIPLE-PERSONNEL, AND SUSPECTED ENEMY POSITIONS WITH EFFECTIVE, SEMIAUTOMATIC OR AUTOMATIC FIRE FROM GROUND FIRING POSITIONS, OR FROM AIR AND SURFACE VEHICLES. HE WILL COMMENCE AND TERMINATE FIRE AND DISTRIBUTE FIRE AS THE SITUATION DEMANDS OR ON ORDER.

He must : know the pertinent characteristics of the M14A1 rifle to control his fire and that of his automatic riflemen effectively: 16

(1) Maximum range is 3725 meters, thus fire must be carefully controlled to avoid inflicting casualties upon friendly troops and civilians.

(2) Maximum effective range, semiautomatic, without bipod, is 460 meters.

(3) Maximum effective range, semiautomatic, with bipod, is 700 meters.

(4) Maximum effective range, automatic, with bipod, is 460 meters against enemy tactical formations and hasty crew-served weapons emplacements; bunker apertures, windows, etc., which require precise accuracy, should be engaged with semiautomatic fire.

(5) Maximum sustained rate of semiautomatic fire is approximately 15 rounds per minute and any higher rate of fire may be fired only for short periods without overheating the barrel, e.g., a firer may fire 30 rounds per minute for 5 minutes without harming himself or the weapon.

(6) A useful guide rate for sustained automatic fire is approximately 40 rounds per minute for 5 minutes to ensure time for aiming, reloading, and to avoid danger to the firer or damage to the weapon.

(7) Within its effective range, fire from the M14A1 will penetrate unarmored surface vehicles and aircraft; it will penetrate mud, thatch, sheet iron, frame and brick veneer construction and inflict casualties within such structures; and it will penetrate 12 inches of solid oak, e.g., in situations where the enemy uses trees for cover or where enemy squad formations are located in trees and thick brush.

(8) The stabilizer assembly is designed to compensate for the dispersion characteristics of right-handed firers only (the location of the operating rod handle on the right side is also pertinent), thus right-handed men must be selected for training as automatic riflemen to obtain optimum man-machine efficiency.

(9) While training in semiautomatic rifle (M14) marksmanship does transfer to operation of the M14A1, additional skills (more stable body positions, increased efficiency in magazine handling, trigger control during automatic fire, distribution of fire, and sight setting for maximum effective ranges) must supplement basic rifle marksmanship training to obtain maximum efficiency from the weapon in combat, thus expert riflemen should be selected for training and assignment as automatic riflemen.

(10) The weight of the M14A1 rifle and ammunition and the physical energy required to control recoil during the delivery of automatic fire demand that individual muscular coordination and stamina be considered in the selection of automatic riflemen, i.e., the weapon must be "man-handled," particularly in offensive action such as the delivery of assault fire and during the delivery of automatic fire.

He will : recognize the M14A1 as the primary source of stable, supported (bipod), automatic fire available to the infantry rifle squad, and as the most easily portable source of supported automatic fire available within the squad and platoon. 17

: anticipate that casualties will occur among the automatic riflemen in his squad, and designate and train a minimum of two automatic riflemen for each M14A1 toward ensuring continued effective delivery of supported automatic fire despite the occurrence of casualties. 18

He must : know that correct sight alignment and effective trigger control are vital to the effective delivery of fire with the M14A1 rifle. 19

: explain, demonstrate, apply, and supervise the application of correct sight alignment, and emphasize the effect of correct sight alignment upon the delivery of accurate fire. 20

: explain, demonstrate, and supervise the use of correct trigger control as applicable to the delivery of semiautomatic and automatic fire during training and practice toward ensuring the effective delivery of fire in combat. 21

: recognize uncontrolled bursts, flinching, bucking, and jerking during fire delivery as indications of inadequate trigger control, and focus attention and effort to eliminate the faults. 22

: know that recoil from the first and subsequent rounds has a cumulative effect in disturbing the lay of the weapon, i.e., each successive round of a burst is less likely to hit the initial point of aim; recognize that long bursts of fire cannot be controlled and that error increases with both range and length of burst; and habitually fire 2- to 3-round bursts during the delivery of automatic fire. 23

: recognize that long bursts of automatic fire not only waste ammunition because of cumulative dispersion, but also provide sound, muzzle flash, and dust or foliage movement from muzzle blast as cues that will aid the enemy to locate and identify the automatic rifleman's position and thus significantly increase the probability of effective fire delivery by the enemy. 24

He will : know that the correct application of the steady hold factors are vital to controlling the dispersion of the second and third rounds during the delivery of automatic fire; apply the steady hold during delivery of fire; and explain, demonstrate, and supervise the use of the steady hold by his automatic riflemen, i.e.: 25

(1) Position of the left arm and grip of the left hand.

(2) Use of the hinged shoulder rest and the right shoulder.

(3) Grip of the right hand.

(4) Position of the right elbow.

(5) Position of the cheek.

(6) Breathing.

(7) Muscular tension.

(8) Trigger control.

He must : habitually select and use and supervise the selection and use of specific firing positions that will permit the delivery of effective fire while making maximum use of available cover and concealment, i.e.: 26

(1) Bipod-supported prone position.

(2) Bipod-supported foxhole position.

(3) Squatting position.

(4) Kneeling, unsupported position.

(5) Kneeling, supported position.

(6) Standing position.

(7) Sling-supported, hip-firing position.

(8) Underarm firing position.

(A separate paper, Cover, Concealment, and Camouflage, is directly pertinent to the behavior of the automatic rifleman.)

He will : know and ensure that his automatic riflemen know when to use semiautomatic fire, when to use automatic fire, and when to ignore the setting of the selector. 27

: use and require the use of semiautomatic fire at ranges beyond 460 meters and in any situation where accurate fire must be delivered on small, point targets, e.g., single enemy soldiers, firing embrasures, windows, partially exposed enemy, etc. 28

: use and require the use of automatic fire to: 29

(1) Engage enemy formations or suspected formations (distributed fire against enemy in formation using cover and concealment) at ranges out to 460 meters.

(2) Engage large, point targets out to 460 meters, e.g., crew-served weapons emplacements, unarmored vehicles, small buildings.

(3) Engage enemy automatic weapons, e.g., enemy automatic weaponsmen.

(4) Obtain fire superiority as demanded by the situation, e.g., in reaction to ambush.

: ignore the setting of the selector when confronted with a close (e.g., under 50 meters), dangerous target and neutralize the target by delivering effective fire (automatic or semiautomatic) with minimum delay. 30

: know that automatic fire from an unsupported position is much less accurate than semiautomatic fire (in terms of hits per rounds expended); that promiscuous automatic fire will usually merely create resupply problems and draw enemy fire without materially increasing the number of enemy casualties inflicted; and require his automatic riflemen to use semiautomatic fire or automatic fire selectively in strict accordance with the range, the nature of the target, and the demands of the situation, i.e., maintain fire discipline. 31

He must : recognize that automatic riflemen who cannot detect, locate, and identify specific targets or suspected enemy positions may take cover and fail to fire; emphasize target detection as a vital part of automatic rifle marksmanship with particular attention to both deep and wide linear targets (enemy formations or suspected locations of formations) requiring the distribution of fire. (Target detection is covered in detail in the paper on Observation, Combat Intelligence, and Reporting and is not repeated herein.) 32

He will : recognize that the training of capable and effective automatic riflemen requires extensive development of specific muscles and muscular coordination; provide opportunity for live fire practice at frequent intervals; and require his automatic riflemen to wear the steel helmet and combat load during practice and to practice fire delivery from realistic positions and at targets and ranges (distances) closely approximating the demands of combat in the pertinent area of operations. 33

He must : except where time pressure, insufficient light, or enemy proximity demand the use of pointing, unaimed fire (i.e., "Quick Kill" technique), aim the M14A1 rifle and deliberately apply the fundamentals of automatic rifle marksmanship to ensure effective delivery of fire; and require the same actions of his automatic riflemen. 34

: anticipate that the majority of point targets engaged in combat will be at ranges up to 300 meters and discount the effect of wind in selecting an aiming point except as indicated by visible bullet strike. 35

: recognize that it is not necessary to change sight settings for targets at ranges out to approximately 500 meters; maintain a calibrated 250-meter battlesight zero; and use an adjusted aiming point to deliver effective fire, i.e., aim his zeroed weapon at the: 36

(1) Center of the torso (i.e., midway between the crotch and the chin) on fully visible stationary human targets from point-blank range to the maximum effective range of the weapon.

(2) Bottom center of visible mass for stationary targets using cover and concealment up to 200 meters.

(3) Center of visible mass for stationary targets using cover and concealment from 200 to 500 meters.

(4) Recognize that most men tend to shoot high in combat; that the prescribed adjusted aiming points aid to overcome this tendency; and that a low shot may produce either an incapacitating ricochet hit <u>or</u> a visible bullet strike that will permit adjustment of the aiming point to deliver effective fire. (A high shot often is simply lost and usually produces no feedback.)

He will : adjust the rear sight to effectively engage targets between 500 and 700 meters with bipod-supported, semiautomatic fire: 37

(1) With the 250-meter battlesight set and calibrated on the rear sight, estimate the range to the target to the nearest 100 meters, e.g., 600.

(2) Set the estimated range on rear sight by aligning the appropriate range line on the elevation knob (e.g., <u>6</u> for 600 meters) with the index line on the receiver.

(3) Aim at the center of visible mass when engaging targets between 500 and 700 meters using adjusted sights.

(4) Memorize the number of clicks and the direction of turn required to make the necessary adjustments of the rear sight for engaging targets between 500 and 700 meters so the sights can be adjusted quickly and accurately by tactual discrimination ("feel") to any one of the four (250, 500, 600, and 700) useful settings from any other setting while maintaining continuous visual contact with the target or suspected target. (It is of little use to change sight settings if visual focus on the rear sight while making adjustments causes loss of the exact location (adjusted aiming point) of the target. Point targets often are extremely difficult to detect, locate, identify, and mark, particularly at ranges between 500 and 700 meters in monotonous terrain.)

(5) Know the sight setting on his rifle at any given moment; recognize that forgetting the sight setting will require either a visual check or a check by "feel," and that shifting of visual focus from the target to the sights may cause loss of the target location.

(6) Upon completion of engagement of targets at ranges between 500 and 700 meters, habitually return the rear sight setting to the calibrated 250-meter battlesight zero.

He must : anticipate that dismounted enemy moving within effective rifle range usually will avoid lateral movement and often will move by short, full-speed, 3- to 4-second rushes; recognize that such moving targets often can be hit by marking the point where the rush ends and shooting while the enemy is stationary or as the enemy rises to start a rush. 38

: when engaging a target moving directly toward or directly away from him, use the same adjusted aiming point as would be used for a stationary target. 39

He will : when engaging laterally moving enemy with the calibrated 250-meter battlesight zero, adhere to the elevation prescribed for the range and target involved, but adjust the aiming point further to lead the moving target, i.e., aim at: 40

(1) The forward edge of the body of a walking man within 200 meters.

(2) A point approximately one body width in front of a running man within 200 meters.

(3) A point approximately one body width in front of a walking man beyond 200 meters, but under 500 meters.

(4) A point approximately two body widths in front of a running man beyond 200 meters, but under 500 meters.

: recognize that the speed of movement and the angle of movement (with respect to the line of sight) will vary with different moving targets; habitually watch for bullet strike and correct the aiming point for lead and elevation on the basis of visible bullet strike. 41

: if a moving target cannot be seen through the peep sight because of poor light or a background that blends with the target, look directly over the sights and deliver pointing fire, i.e., use the "Quick Kill" technique, with appropriate lead as demanded by range and target speed. 42

: recognize the value of binoculars to detect, locate, and identify point and area targets and reference points marking the limits of targets requiring distributed fire; use binoculars when obtainable; and use a binocular-equipped observer to aid in the adjustment and delivery of fire on the basis of observed bullet strike when the situation will permit, particularly at the longer ranges. (The employment and maintenance of binoculars is covered in the paper on Use of Indirect Supporting Fires.) 43

: when a moving target takes cover or concealment, select a visible aiming or reference point at or near the point of disappearance and "stitch" the suspected position laterally with 3 or 4 carefully aimed, single rounds spaced approximately a foot apart to take maximum advantage of chance dispersion and the penetrating quality of M14A1 rifle fire. 44

: recognize that regular practice is essential to the effective engagement of stationary or moving targets, particularly the latter, and conscientiously seek to provide supervised practice for his automatic riflemen at every opportunity, e.g., balloons moved by the current of a stream may be used for moving target practice with little preparation if a high stream bank or suitable cleared space is available down range to ensure safety. 45

He must : know that distributed fire is fire delivered in depth and/or width to effectively cover the known or suspected locations of enemy small-unit combat formations in either column or line; that enemy use of cover and concealment may make location of the limits (front and rear or flanks) of the deployed formation difficult to discern; that approximate locations of limits must be determined by the automatic rifleman; and that the heaviest possible volume of controlled fire must be distributed over the area between the known or suspected limits of the target area despite a lack of visible, individual enemy within the target area. 46

: emphasize the need for IFTL's to designate the known or suspected limits of area targets to automatic riflemen when the situation will permit, but impress upon each automatic rifleman the need for the automatic rifleman to detect, locate, and systematically engage area targets with effective distributed fire on his own initiative. 47

: emphasize to his automatic riflemen the value of the inherent dispersion characteristic of automatic fire delivered by the M14A1 from a bipod-supported position in 2- to 3-round bursts during distribution of fire, i.e., the inherent dispersion of the subsequent round(s) in each 2- to 3-round burst facilitates systematic coverage of the target area, and the total volume of fire that can be distributed between the limits of the target area is vastly increased as compared to coverage with semiautomatic fire; require the use of controlled automatic fire from the bipod-supported positions to achieve a maximum volume of systematically distributed fire when the range to the target and terrain and visibility will permit. 48

: know that thick vegetation and rough terrain frequently will prevent the use of the bipod-supported prone position, thus this position should not be emphasized to the neglect of any other position. 49

: explain, demonstrate, and supervise practice in the distribution of fire by his automatic riflemen with emphasis upon correct application of the steady hold factors and use of correct body positions to ensure effective delivery of systematically distributed fire from: 50

(1) Bipod-supported positions with due attention to body alignment and to the position of the shoulders and right elbow to prevent erratic dispersion of fire.

(2) Unsupported positions without use of the bipod, but with maximum use of available support such as trees, walls, etc., to aid aiming each shot at a specific point within the target area.

(3) Underarm and sling-supported hip-firing positions with due attention to the distribution of fire on wide targets, as in the assault.

: require the use of concentrated fire in conjunction with the delivery of distributed fire as demanded by the appearance of clearly visible point targets within the target area or within dangerous proximity to the automatic rifleman, i.e., the primary purpose of fire delivery is to cause casualties; further, the automatic rifleman must defend himself against close, dangerous enemy; thus when a clearly visible enemy target appears, the automatic rifleman must destroy or neutralize it as quickly as possible with concentrated fire and immediately continue to distribute fire over the remainder of the area target. 51

He will : when firing at time-pressure targets at ranges over 35 meters, use the shoulder position with sights and deliver aimed semiautomatic fire to achieve maximum accuracy with speed, when time pressure permits. 52

: habitually keep the selector set for the delivery of semiautomatic fire except when the deliberate intent is to deliver automatic fire. 53

: when time pressure permits during the engagement of individual targets, assume the most stable firing position the situation allows; use available cover and concealment; use the sights to aim, taking the correct adjusted aiming point and any required lead; and fire a single shot or a rapid succession of semiautomatic shots as required to destroy or neutralize each target. Limit the use of automatic fire to bipod-supported positions at targets within 500 meters' range except in emergency situations where close, dangerous targets demand the fastest possible delivery of fire without regard to the selector setting. 54

: when practicable, habitually use the bipod or other stable objects, such as trees, to gain a supported firing position and increase accuracy, particularly when firing at targets at medium range and beyond; in defensive positions, deliberately fix firing positions to deliver bipod-supported, aimed fire over the assigned sector during unlimited visibility and bipod-supported, grazing fire during limited visibility. 55

: when firing from moving vehicles or aircraft, use semiautomatic fire to gain maximum control of his fire and to enhance safety; assume a stable, supported firing position; seek to anticipate vehicle or aircraft movement likely to inhibit accuracy; ensure that the intended line of fire is clear of approaching friendly forces; and ensure that the muzzle remains clear of the vehicle to prevent damage. 56

4. THE IRSL WILL, AT RANGES UP TO APPROXIMATELY 35 METERS AND UNDER EXTREME TIME PRESSURE, ENGAGE AND SUPERVISE THE ENGAGEMENT OF SUDDENLY APPEARING, CLOSE-IN TARGETS, INCLUDING STATIONARY, MOVING, SINGLE- AND MULTIPLE-LOCATED PERSONNEL ON THE GROUND, AS WELL AS SUSPECTED ENEMY POSITIONS, AND WILL SUPERVISE DELIVERY OF ASSAULT FIRE BY HIS AUTOMATIC RIFLEMEN. HE WILL COMMENCE AND TERMINATE FIRE AS DEMANDED BY THE SITUATION OR ON ORDER.

He must : engage close, dangerous targets under extreme time pressure from the sling-supported, hip-firing position, from the underarm position, from the shoulder position without using sights, and from the shoulder position using sights, as demanded by the situation, and recognize that other positions require excessive time to assume. 57

: determine his own capabilities and limitations by firing the M14A1 rifle from each of the four positions at close, presumably dangerous targets, demonstrating to himself the advantages and disadvantages of using each position. 58

: provide instructions and practice for his automatic riflemen to ensure that each man determines his individual capabilities and limitations in the delivery of effective fire from each of the four positions. 59

He will : know that the sling-supported, hip-firing position and the underarm position are the quickest positions to assume and fire from; but are the least accurate of the four positions, particularly as range increases beyond 15 to 25 meters; and recognize that the use of either of these two firing positions magnifies the tendency of inexperienced riflemen to fire high. 60

: recognize that use of the sling-supported, hip-firing position (to facilitate carrying during long marches and to facilitate rapid magazine changing) may force the delivery of fire from the hip or underarm position under extreme time pressure because the butt end of the sling may prevent bringing the rifle to the shoulder quickly and the muzzle end of the sling may block vision between the rear and front sights. 61

: during practice, emphasize the necessity to overcome the tendency to shoot high from the hip and underarm positions. 62

: when time pressure permits, use the underarm position in preference to the hip position against close, dangerous targets to increase accuracy. 63

He must : know that <u>pointing</u> fire delivered from the shoulder position, although slower than from the hip or underarm position, is more accurate, and that use of the shoulder position reduces the tendency to fire high. 64

He will : know that <u>aimed</u> fire delivered from the shoulder is the slowest method of delivery, particularly with a peep sight, but will provide the most accurate fire, especially at ranges between 15 and 35 meters and beyond. 65

He must : as demanded by time pressure when engaging close, dangerous targets, aim <u>or</u> point at the center of visible mass, e.g., the lower chest of a man in an erect position above ground, <u>or</u> the bottom center of assumed, penetrable mass, e.g., the base of a bush behind which an enemy has concealed himself in an assumed prone position. 66

He will : recognize the need for and provide realistic practice toward the effective engagement of close, dangerous targets while under fire or under the immediate threat of fire so each soldier's reaction will be almost automatic, i.e., immediately upon <u>identifying</u> an enemy target: 67

(1) Fire from the standing position depending upon the effectiveness of his fire for protection.

(2) Drop to prone or take any immediately available cover prior to firing. (To go prone with the M14A1 rifle in the sling-supported, hip-firing position may cause the sling to bind and prevent bringing the rifle fully to the shoulder. Further, the muzzle end of the sling may block vision between the front and rear sights and thus prevent the delivery of aimed fire.)

(3) Fire from an upright position while dropping to prone, particularly at point-blank targets.

He must : know and forewarn his men that to habitually follow a single reaction, e.g., to habitually go prone before firing, may permit the enemy to recognize and react to specific habit patterns with resultant increase in friendly casualties. 68

: forewarn his men against purely reflexive delivery of fire against perceived (seen or heard), but unidentified, targets, particularly when visibility is limited by darkness, rain, dense brush, elephant grass, etc., to avoid the tragic delivery of lethal fire against friendly personnel. 69

He will : recognize the need for and require his men to carry weapons in a ready-to-fire position as a matter of habit to permit immediate delivery of fire upon any targets that appear suddenly without forewarning, i.e., prohibit the slinging of the M14A1 rifle behind the shoulder except when the automatic rifleman must use both hands for load-bearing or climbing. (Muscular development over time through regular practice in training and in combat is vital to prolonged carrying of a fully loaded weapon in a ready-to-fire position. The time required to unsling a weapon from behind the shoulder or to move it from a shoulder carry to a firing position may cost the soldier his life or a serious wound when the enemy is encountered suddenly at short range.) 70

5. THE IRSL WILL, DURING LIMITED VISIBILITY, AT RANGES OUT TO THE LIMITS OF VISIBILITY AND UNDER VARYING TIME PRESSURES, ENGAGE AND SUPERVISE ENGAGEMENT OF TARGETS OF ALL TYPES, INCLUDING STATIONARY, MOVING, SINGLE- AND MULTIPLE-LOCATED OR SUSPECTED ENEMY PERSONNEL, USING POINTING FIRE, COMMENCING AND TERMINATING FIRE AS THE SITUATION DEMANDS OR ON ORDER. HE WILL DIRECT AND SUPERVISE THE USE OF THE BIPOD AND FIELD EXPEDIENTS TO DELIVER EFFECTIVE, PREARRANGED GRAZING FIRE.

He must : use and supervise the use of pointing ("Quick Kill") techniques from the shoulder firing position, looking directly at the target over the muzzle and sights with both eyes open to ensure alignment with the target. 71

: consider placing luminous material on the backs of rear and front sights facing the firer to aid in properly aligning the weapon with the target during darkness when the standard peep sight is not useful. 72

: anticipate that the tendency to fire high will increase when visibility is limited by darkness because the firer is unable to use his sights, and require a significant and deliberate depression of the muzzle once the firer decides the proper alignment has been achieved. 73

: know that prolonged focus of the eyes upon a target during darkness will cause the retinal image of the target to fade, and provide practice to demonstrate that the trained automatic rifleman has time after he has spotted a target to position his weapon and fire effectively, using the pointing technique, <u>before the image fades</u>. 74

He will : use and supervise the use of night-vision devices to acquire and engage targets and to adjust and distribute fire during darkness. (Pertinent knowledges and skills are presented in the paper titled <u>Infrared Weaponsight and Image Intensification Devices</u> and are not repeated herein.) 75

He must : as soon as time permits when organizing a defensive position, ensure that preplanned grazing fires are organized to cover dangerous approaches and areas of level or uniformly sloping terrain by requiring his men to use: 76

(1) Locally procured directional stakes marking the direction of specific target areas, e.g., the mouth of a gully leading toward friendly positions, and the lateral limits of assigned sectors of fire.

(2) The bipod and a rearward support, such as a notched stake, for a specific target area or a horizontal board or log to ensure coverage of a sector of grazing fire.

(3) When firing the automatic rifle within rests, firm butt support by the firer's shoulder with the weapon held in the exact position in which it was sighted-in to cover a specific target or sector.

(4) Verified sighting-in, when the situation permits, to check both direction and elevation to achieve optimum graze effect during limited visibility.

: recognize that the use of the bipod and field-expedient rests to produce grazing fire from individual riflemen and automatic riflemen will significantly increase the effectiveness of final protective fire. 77

He will : know that tracer fire may create psychological fear in the enemy <u>and</u> illuminate targets, thus increasing the effectiveness of fire. 78

: recognize that the firing of tracer ammunition will not expose the firer's position beyond normal exposure common to all muzzle blast because tracer usually ignites 35 to 70 meters forward of the muzzle and has a deceiving, arcing effect. 79

6. THE IRSL WILL, DURING ALL CONDITIONS OF VISIBILITY AND FREQUENTLY UNDER EXTREME TIME PRESSURE, REMOVE EMPTY MAGAZINES AND RELOAD HIS M14A1 RIFLE WITHOUT VISUALLY OBSERVING THE PROCEDURE, WITH A MINIMUM OF BETRAYING MOVEMENT, AND WHILE MAINTAINING SURVEILLANCE OF THE TARGET AREA.

He will : recognize and emphasize to his automatic riflemen that the maintenance of a heavy volume of fire from the M14A1 rifle is directly dependent upon the ability of the firer to react reflexively to each stoppage resulting from lack of ammunition by removing the empty magazine and replacing it with a full magazine with a time lapse of 5 seconds or less in the delivery of effective fire <u>and</u> without loss of visual reference to the target or target area being engaged. 80

He must : consider, prior to entry into action, loading three tracer rounds as the bottom (last to be fired) rounds in each magazine to provide visual forewarning when each magazine is nearly empty and thus cue him to prepare to reload. 81

: habitually keep magazines clean; keep foreign matter out of ammunition pouches; and inspect ammunition during loading of magazines (when time permits) to ensure against corroded, bent, loose or short rounds, split cases, dirt, etc. 82

: place two vertically positioned magazines in each ammunition pouch with the top (open end) down and the long edge (primer end of round) to the rear (outside) to facilitate rapid reloading, to protect ammunition from dirt, to keep magazine lips from bending, and to permit water to drain readily during rain or after stream crossings. 83

: reload with the right hand using the magazines stowed on the right side of the body until the magazines on the right have been fired; when the situation will permit, transfer the loaded magazines from the left side to the right side to speed reloading with the right hand; and reload with the left hand from the left side when the demand for sustained fire has prohibited transfer of magazines from left to right. 84

: except when the intent is to continue the delivery of fire upon reloading, place the safety in the safe position during the removal of the magazine and while reloading. 85

: when the last round (third tracer round) is fired and the bolt remains to the rear, deliberately and firmly press in on the magazine latch, rotate the base of the empty magazine toward the muzzle, remove the empty magazine from the magazine well, and stow it for later reloading. 86

: grasp a loaded magazine with the thumb between the magazine and the body, fingers on the outside of the magazine; withdraw the magazine and rotate it 180 degrees, as the arm is extended, to deliberately insert the loaded magazine into the magazine well until the operating rod spring guide engages the magazine; then pull backward and upward to seat the magazine as indicated by the click of the magazine latch; seat the bolt; and continue fire delivery. 87

: provide practice in changing magazines by tactual discrimination ("feel") and require automatic riflemen habitually to continue visual search for targets or to maintain visual reference to target locations already detected throughout the reloading procedure. (Use partially filled magazines during range firing to force realistic practice in reloading.) 88

: as time permits, reload partially loaded magazines by inserting rounds from clips through the magazine charger guide, and require all automatic riflemen to seek habitually to maintain a fully loaded weapon. 89

: use and supervise the use of the magazine filler to reload cartridges from 5-round clips into empty magazines, and require automatic riflemen to seek habitually to maintain the prescribed basic load of fully loaded magazines. 90

: continually emphasize the necessity for all automatic riflemen to learn to reload rapidly by feel while maintaining a vigilant watch for targets to avoid lulls in the delivery of assault fire, to speed loading during limited visibility, and to limit to an absolute minimum the time during which the soldier is vulnerable because his rifle is empty and he cannot deliver fire to protect himself. 91

: particularly in defensive positions, seek extra magazines, require them to be fully loaded and placed in protected but easily accessible positions (e.g., in metal ammunition containers inset into the sides of foxholes) for immediate use, and require a basic load to be maintained on the web equipment in the event a small unit must move on short notice, e.g., to counterattack. 92

: during offensive operations, consider use of the M60 machinegun bandoleer or a similar container for use by automatic riflemen for carrying extra loaded magazines and for stowing empty magazines; require the container to be slung on the right side for rapid reloading with the right hand; but specifically prescribe the basic load and any additional required ammunition to be carried on each operation to avoid overloading the soldier. (Left to their own devices, soldiers often will carry two or three basic loads and thus reduce mobility and increase fatigue through overloads of many useless pounds.) 93

: recognize that reloading magazines under fire, particularly in freezing weather, rain, or during darkness, is a difficult and time-consuming task; when the availability of magazines and the nature of the mission will permit (e.g., during airmobile operations), seek to have fully loaded magazines provided as an item of resupply to his riflemen and return empty magazines to the supply source for cleaning and reloading in safe areas by combat-support personnel. 94

7. THE IRSL WILL, THROUGH INSTRUCTION, DEMONSTRATION, SUPERVISION, AND INSPECTION, ENSURE THE ADEQUATE MAINTENANCE OF HIS AUTOMATIC RIFLEMEN'S M14A1 WEAPONS, INCLUDING PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL ENVIRONMENTS, DISASSEMBLY, CLEANING, PROCUREMENT AND REPLACEMENT OF UNSERVICEABLE PARTS, LUBRICATION, ASSEMBLY, AND PROCUREMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF TOOLS AND CLEANING MATERIALS.

He will : recognize and continually emphasize to his men that all weapons in use under campaign conditions must be maintained <u>according to need</u> to ensure adequate functioning and to avoid unnecessary wear and deterioration; impress upon his men that their survival and the accomplishment of the mission are directly dependent upon their ability to maintain their weapons and to deliver a superior volume of lethal fire during each contact with the enemy; and hold the individual weaponsman <u>and</u> IFTL directly responsible for adequate weapons maintenance and full participation in the delivery of fire by all unit members. 95

He must : recognize the tools and cleaning and preserving materials required (issued) for maintenance of the M14A1 rifle, i.e., identify any necessity that is missing; explain in detail and demonstrate their proper use for maintaining the M14A1 rifle for any given climate (temperate, hot-wet, hot-dry, and extreme cold); require each automatic rifleman to carry cleaning rags and a toothbrush or shaving brush as additional aids to weapons maintenance; and ensure replacement and resupply of non-expendable and expendable items required for adequate maintenance of the weapon. 96

: ensure through instruction, supervision, and inspection that each automatic rifleman, each designated supernumerary, and each IFTL in his squad can disassemble (field strip) the M14A1 rifle, clean and lubricate it properly for the governing climate and the specific environment, assemble the weapon, and check it for proper functioning. 97

: set the example for weapons handling, care, and maintenance, and make it a habit to spot check and inspect weapons at random when time permits, i.e., conduct on-the-spot inspections of individual weapons, loaded magazines, stowage of magazines, and availability of tools and cleaning and preserving materials with a frequency that will condition each soldier in the squad to anticipate that his individual weapon is likely to be singled out for inspection at any time during contact with the IRSL. 98

: recognize that detailed disassembly and needless ("busy work") cleaning of weapons merely cause unnecessary wear and loss or deformation of parts; prohibit disassembly beyond field stripping except in an emergency under the supervision of the unit armorer or an experienced NCO; and require each automatic rifleman to report any malfunction of a weapon or ammunition that cannot quickly be corrected on the spot by routine application of authorized procedures. 99

: habitually provide time for essential weapons maintenance as soon after use as is practicable, e.g., it is as sensible, and possibly more vital, to secure an area and call a halt for weapons maintenance after use and exposure to unfavorable conditions (such as a fire fight in a swamp) as it is to permit men time to gain rest and consume food. 100

: when weapons maintenance is conducted under any possible threat of enemy contact, require IFTL's to coordinate and schedule cleaning by individuals so that a minimum number of weapons are disassembled (inoperative) at any given time and that adequate firepower is available to ensure the security of the unit. (This applies to all weapons, of course, not merely to automatic rifles.) 101

He will : periodically, e.g., between major operations, arrange for a detailed technical inspection of his squad's weapons and ensure the replacement of parts or repairs as required by the unit armorer and/or an Ordnance small-arms technician. 102

: periodically, e.g., prior to the beginning of a major operation or immediately prior to a special operation, provide opportunity to test fire and check the zero of all weapons assigned to his men and to attached personnel. 103

He must : particularly after exposure to mud (rice paddies, swamps) or snow, forewarn his men to inspect their rifle muzzles, flash suppressors, and stabilizer assemblies to ensure against blocking with resultant overpressure that may injure the firer and destroy the weapon. 104

: know that use of a thin plastic covering or covering with an olive drab handkerchief will prevent mud, snow leaves, etc., from blocking muzzles, flash suppressors, and stabilizer assemblies; forewarn his men to ensure that such covers do not obscure front sights and thus interfere with the delivery of aimed fire. 105

: recognize that the length of the M14A1 barrel with stabilizer assembly and flash suppressor may cause a barrel to be bent or the stabilizer assembly to be misaligned; forewarn his automatic riflemen to safeguard their weapons during handling, to check and tighten the stabilizer assembly lock nut in preparation for firing and periodically during extensive firing, and to check against bent barrels and misaligned stabilizer assemblies to ensure accuracy of fire and safety. 106

: consider the use of thin plastic sheeting to cover receiver and magazines during windstorms in sandy areas and when being helicopter landed into sandy areas where rotor downwash fills the air with abrasive dust and sand; use rubber bands to hold the thin plastic sheeting in place; ensure that plastic covers can be ripped off quickly; and ensure that the weapon can be fired with the plastic sheeting in place in an emergency. 107

: protect extra loaded magazines (i.e., those not carried in belt pouches) against sand, mud, freezing rain, etc., by wrapping in light plastic within the limits imposed by the mission, but keep a minimum of one magazine ready for instant reloading at all times. 108

: avoid bringing cold weapons into heated bunkers, tents, or buildings where condensation will occur and cause moisture-covered mechanisms to freeze when again exposed to outside temperatures. 109

: prohibit the taping or welding of magazines together because this exposes the open end of the magazine not in the magazine well to dust, mud, etc., and may cause failure to feed. 110

: particularly in hot, wet climates, anticipate frequent need to treat wooden stocks with linseed oil, to replace handguards, magazines, and slings, and to wipe ammunition with a dry cloth to prevent corrosion. 111

: require loaded but unused magazines to be emptied periodically, disassembled, cleaned and reloaded to ensure against unseen rust and corrosion, particularly in hot-wet climates; oil the springs only and seek habitually to keep magazines and ammunition clean and dry. 112

8. THE IRSL WILL APPLY IMMEDIATE ACTION TO REDUCE STOPPAGES DURING FIRING AND, WHEN IMMEDIATE ACTION FAILS TO REMEDY THE STOPPAGE, HE WILL DETERMINE THE CAUSE AND REDUCE THE STOPPAGE.

He must : through instruction, inspection, and adequately supervised maintenance, seek to limit all weapons malfunctions in his squad to an absolute minimum with full realization that stoppages resulting from poor maintenance will increase casualties, reduce the squad's volume of fire, and may cause mission failure. 113

: emphasize the need to load tracer ammunition as the last three rounds to be fired from each magazine to avoid mistaking a normal stoppage due to <u>lack of ammunition</u> for a genuine malfunction requiring immediate action. 114

: recognize that an open bolt, i.e., when the operating rod handle is fully rearward, <u>is usually an indication to reload and proceed accordingly</u>. 115

He will : know that immediate action is the unhesitating application of a probable remedy to reduce a stoppage without investigating the cause; that the application of immediate action is <u>not</u> instinctive, i.e., it is a learned skill; and deliberately condition his men to apply immediate action effectively by forcing practice in the skill during all range and field firing. (Immediate action may be forced realistically during training by loading dummy rounds at random intervals in magazines loaded with live ammunition for practice firing.) 116

: know that a primary cause of weapons malfunctions is faulty ammunition and that the ejection of a faulty round and its replacement will reduce the majority of stoppages. 117

He must : immediately upon the occurrence of a stoppage not caused by an empty magazine, pull the operating rod handle all the way to the rear with the right hand, palm up; release the operating rod handle, aim, and attempt to fire. (Emphasize keeping the palm up to avoid injury if a round hang-fires or cooks-off.) 118

: if the first phase of immediate action fails to reduce the stoppage, apply the second phase, i.e.: 119

(1) Place the rifle below eye level and pull the operating rod slowly to the rear.

(2) As the operating rod moves to the rear, look or feel (in darkness) to determine what is in the chamber and what is being ejected.

(3) Reduce the stoppage and continue to fire.

He will : if any weapon malfunctions repeatedly without apparent cause, obtain replacement or repair. 120

: if an unusual number of malfunctions appear to be occurring with a specific lot of ammunition, request resupply; identify and report the lot number (as shown on containers); and replace the ammunition in the hands of troops that is known or suspected of causing stoppages. 121

: seek habitually and deliberately to identify any causes of malfunctions that appear to be peculiar to a specific environment and report the cause(s) and remedies without delay. 122

9. THE IRSL WILL ESTABLISH, DISSEMINATE, AND ENFORCE SAFETY PROCEDURES TO PREVENT ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE OF THE M14A1 RIFLE.

He must : impress upon all members of his unit that the accidental discharge of any weapon may: 123

(1) Kill or seriously wound a fellow soldier.

(2) Damage or destroy valuable materiel, e.g., the accidental discharge of a tracer round into the fuel cell of a helicopter.

(3) Cause the loss of tactical surprise with resultant friendly casualties and possible mission failure.

: emphasize weapons safety on a continuing basis as a regular part of maintenance, and require all rifles to be locked on safety at all times except when the immediate intent is to deliberately fire the weapon. 124

: require the selector habitually to be set for semi-automatic fire except when the immediate intent is to deliberately deliver automatic fire. 125

: require all riflemen to look or feel (in darkness) to ensure removal of the magazine and clearing of the chamber when weapons are unloaded for cleaning, storage, or any other purpose. 126

: habitually emphasize and indictrinate each man in the squad to focus attention upon and apply <u>muzzle control</u>, i.e., ensure that no weapon is ever pointed carelessly or unknowingly at anyone. 127

He will : issue specific orders in keeping with the situation as to when weapons are to be carried with a round chambered and the safety locked; hold each IFTL strictly responsible for the enforcement of orders pertinent to weapons safety; and treat each infraction of a weapons safety regulation as a serious matter to be brought directly to his attention. 128

He must : recognize that weapons safety practices are a part of combat discipline vital to the unhesitating delivery of effective fire; that the time required to chamber a round may cost several friendly casualties; avoid extremes (e.g., requiring men to risk enemy contact with empty chamber); and patiently and persistently condition all of his men to handle weapons safely and professionally as a matter of ingrained habit. 129

10. THE IRSL WILL, ON ORDER OR AS DEMANDED BY THE SITUATION, REQUIRE AND SUPERVISE THE DESTRUCTION OF M14A1 RIFLES TO PREVENT CAPTURE.

He must : establish a priority for the destruction of weapon components, i.e.: 130

(1) Night-vision devices mounted on the weapons.

(2) Bolt mechanisms.

(3) Barrels.

(4) Ammunition and magazines.

(5) Bipods.

: use and supervise the use of the most practical and convenient methods of destruction possible to prevent the enemy from salvaging parts that will permit the assembly of a serviceable weapon or to prohibit the salvaging of parts for other purposes, such as making boobytraps, e.g.: 131

(1) Dent, break, bend, or smash components with an ax, sledge, heavy stone, etc., or club the rifle and strike it against a tree or hard object to splinter the stock and bend the barrel.

(2) Burn with incendiary grenades, gasoline, oil, or other flammable substances.

(3) Smash with gunfire or grenades.

(4) Disperse disassembled parts by burying, dumping in deep water or mud.

(5) Use any or all of the above combination.