



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY CADET COMMAND
FORT MONROE, VIRGINIA 23651-5000

ATCC-JR

JAN 1 12005

MEMORANDUM FOR JROTC Units with Marksmanship Programs

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Instruction (MOI) for Air Rifle Safety and Marksmanship

1. References:

a. CCR 145-2, Organization, Administration, Operation, Training and Support, 20 Aug 04.

b. Cadet Command Safety Program LET Unit 7, Air Rifle Safety and Marksmanship, 4 Mar 02.

c. JROTC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Air Rifle Safety and Air Rifle Range Management (Encl 1).

d. JROTC Air Rifle Range Operation Procedures (Encl 2).

e. JROTC Cadet Individual Safety Pledge (Encl 3).

2. Purpose. To provide a safe environment to conduct air rifle marksmanship.

3. Summary. Air rifle marksmanship training is a school activity, approved by school officials. **The use of .22 cal rifles is prohibited for JROTC units.** JROTC units are allowed to conduct air rifle marksmanship training events for **JROTC cadets only**, upon the approval of the local school district sponsoring the event. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be signed by an authorized representative, such as the sponsoring school's principal or the school district's superintendent. Only JROTC personnel who have been approved by Army ROTC Brigade/Area Coordinator (AC) Headquarters will conduct air rifle marksmanship training at school-sponsored events. **EVERY INSTRUCTOR AND CADET WHO HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THEIR REQUIRED TRAINING HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO CALL "STOP, UNLOAD" WHEN THEY ARE WITNESS TO A SAFETY VIOLATION.**

4. Requirements. The following requirements will be adhered to when conducting air rifle marksmanship with cadets. Air rifle

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marksmanship will only be conducted by certified JROTC instructors or coaches approved through Brigade/AC. The following training must be completed by instructors and cadets prior to instituting a marksmanship program:

a. Instructors must:

(1) Have completed the distance learning program, Air Rifle Safety and Range Management, developed by the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP).

(2) Have passed the distance learning Air Rifle Safety and Range Management Instructor's Examination with a score of 100.

(3) Have proof of prior completion of one of the following:

(a) One-day CMP Rifle Safety Training Course.

(b) Two-day NRA/CMP,/USA Shooting Coach Certification Rifle Course.

(c) `three-day ITC CMP Course.

(4) Or must complete one of the following:

(a) One-day CMP Rifle Safety Training Course.

(b) Two-day NRA/CMP/USA Shooting Coach Certification Rifle Course.

(c) Three-day ITC CMP Course.

(d) One-day Rifle Safety Training Course at JSOCC.

(5) Instructor must complete a re-certification Distance Learning Air Rifle Safety and Range Management Course annually with a passing score of 100, and complete one of the courses in paragraph 4a(4)(a)-(d) every 5 years.

b. Cadets must:

(1) Have completed Army JROTC Unit 7, Lesson 2, Air Rifle Safety and Marksmanship Test.

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(2) Have completed the Individual JROTC Cadet Safety Pledge.

c. Air rifle marksmanship will be conducted in restricted designated school facilities as determined by the school district (i.e., cafeteria, classroom, gymnasium, etc.), IAW reference 1.a, and the Air Rifle Range Management SOP.

d. Instructors will not conduct JROTC air rifle marksmanship training with students other than JROTC cadets.

e. Only brigade/AC approved JROTC instructors who are certified may be responsible for the supervision and conduct of the air rifle range and firing.

5. Procedures. Army Brigades/AC Headquarters will ensure that Army JROTC units conducting marksmanship will comply with the above requirements. Brigades/ACs will also maintain the following documents for each unit:

a. Approved requests from Army JROTC Instructors desiring to conduct air rifle marksmanship.

b. File copies of distance learning Air Rifle Safety and Range Management Instructor's Examination and subsequent training.

c. A schedule that ensures instructors obtain annual reassessments.

6. The school must maintain a current MOU with their JROTC unit for the marksmanship program to continue.



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Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

3 Encls

JROTC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) For Air Rifle Safety and Air Rifle Range Management

Item	Standard	Notes
Air Rifle Range Layout		
Range Walls or Perimeter	The side and front walls (as you look downrange) of the room used for a range must be secure or capable of being secured from inside the range. These walls must also not have exposed windows or other areas that could be damaged by a stray pellet. Any doors forward of the firing line must be locked to prevent entry and a sign posted on the outside of the door stating "Caution-Do Not Enter Live Firing in Progress."	No one should be able to enter the range area from outside the range during firing under any circumstances.
Target Holders	A frame made of wood or other material should be utilized to hold the targets at the required heights (20 in. for prone, 55 in. for standing, 32 in. for kneeling, as measured at the center of the target). The target frame must have a pellet catcher or backstop if the range does not have a backstop of its own.	A key feature of the target holder is that it be made of a material that does not cause pellets to bounce back if the frame is struck.
Target Backstops	Target backstops must be capable of capturing and retaining all pellets fired at the targets. 1/8 in. galvanized steel is commonly used as a backstop material. The key is to have target holders that effectively capture 100% of the pellets fired at the targets mounted on the target holders. Any material that effectively captures all fired pellets may be used; even boxes filled with old newspapers have been used in an emergency.	If steel is used as a backstop, it must be hard enough that frequent shots in the same location will not dent it.
Firing Line	The firing line must be visibly marked with a tape or paint stripe that is a contrasting color with the floor. Firing points or lanes corresponding with the spacing of the targets should be marked with a tape or stripe of a different color. The recommended width of each firing point is 1.25 meters (49.2 in.) wide. The width should never be less than 1 meter (40 in.) wide.	The firing line designates an absolute limit to the forward movement any person may make while firing is taking place. Wider firing points are particularly desirable to facilitate instruction and control safety.
Range Officer Stand/Table	A Range Officer stand or table should be located immediately to the rear of the firing points, approximately 10 feet to the rear of the firing line. The Range Officer should have clear visibility of all firers from this point.	The purpose of the Range Officer stand is to provide a specific point of control for firing activities on the range.

<p>Ready Area</p>	<p>If possible, a space behind the firing points and Range Officer stand should be designated for cadets to assemble prior to moving to the firing line. This area may also have chairs or seating for spectators.</p>	<p>Individuals may need to leave gun cases and other equipment bags in the Ready Area so that the Firing Line area will not become congested.</p>
<p>Spectator Area</p>	<p>If sufficient space is available on the range, a separate spectator area may be designated that is to the rear of both the Firing Line and the Ready Area</p>	<p>Spectators are encouraged during shooting sports activities. The important thing is that all spectators remain behind the firing line area.</p>
<p>Safety Instruction</p>		
<p>Preliminary Safety Instruction</p>	<p>A prescribed basic, introductory lesson in air rifle safety and range firing procedures must be taught to all cadets before they are permitted to handle air rifles or do any dry firing or live firing exercises on an air rifle range.</p>	<p>The JROTC Guide to Air Rifle Safety was prepared as a student guide for use in providing instruction to JROTC cadets.</p>
<p>Regular Safety Briefings</p>	<p>All firing exercises should begin with short safety briefings that remind cadets again of the safe gun handling rules.</p>	<p>If there have been any recent lapses in safety focus or discipline, it is important to use safety briefings to reinforce safety rules that are not being properly observed.</p>
<p>Range Supervision and Live Fire Conduct</p>		
<p>Range Supervision</p>	<p>All dry firing or live firing exercises involving the handling of air rifles on a JROTC unit range must be supervised by an Army JROTC Instructor. Cadets who fire on other ranges will fire under the control of the Range Officer appointed for that range.</p>	<p>There are no exceptions to the standard. If volunteer coaches are utilized, they may be on the range and may act as Range Officers or Assistant Range Officers, but an Army Instructor must be present on JROTC unit ranges to supervise the firing activity.</p>
<p>Range Officers</p>	<p>The Range Officer is in charge of firing on the range and is responsible for giving instructions and commands to the firers. Only one person is designated to give range commands and instructions. One Range Officer should be responsible for supervising no more than ten firing points with ten individual firers. If there are more than ten firing points, additional Assistant Range Officers must be appointed.</p>	<p>The JROTC AIR Rifle Range Operation Procedures document was prepared for Range Officers to use as a script and guidelines in conducting range firing exercises.</p>

Assistant Range Officers	One Range Officer should supervise no more than ten firing points with ten individual firers. Especially for beginners, it is strongly recommended that additional Assistant Range Officers be appointed who can assist and control the activities of groups of two to five firers under the supervision of the Range Officer. Cadets who are experienced in rifle marksmanship may be appointed as Assistant Range Officers as long as a JROTC Instructor is in charge of firing.	If there are not sufficient Assistant Range Officers available, the number of firers on a range should be limited to the number that the Range Officer can effectively and safely control.
Range Commands	All range firing exercises must be controlled by proper range commands. The formal range commands are: LOAD, START, STOP, UNLOAD . In addition to these commands, other instructions are given to control the activities of the persons who are firing.	The international range commands, LOAD, START, STOP, UNLOAD are used for air rifle range activities because they are universally understood by everyone, regardless of language skills.
Open Actions	All rifles brought into any range must be unloaded and have open actions.	The only time rifle actions may be closed is when they are controlled by a firer on a designated firing point and the Range Officer has authorized the start of a preparation period or the commands LOAD, START have been given.
Unloaded Rifle	An unloaded air rifle must 1) have its bolt/action open, 2) not have a pellet in the barrel and 3) not have an air/gas charge in the firing mechanism.	No rifle may be moved from the storage area to the range or back to the storage area unless it is in an unloaded condition.
Completion of Firing	Upon the completion of a firing exercise, the firer is responsible for opening his/her rifle action and presenting it so the Range Officer can confirm that the rifle is open and unloaded. The individual firer is also responsible for informing the Range Officer if an air rifle is still loaded.	No rifle may be removed from the firing line unless it is in an unloaded condition.
Grounded Rifle	A grounded air rifle must 1) be unloaded, 2) checked by a Range Officer to confirm it is unloaded, 3) be placed on the floor, shooting mat or bench and 4) not be handled by anyone in any way.	Rifles are to be grounded after firing is completed and rifles have been checked by Range Officers. Rifles must be grounded before anyone can move forward of the firing line.

Line is Hot	The firing line is prepared for the start of a firing exercise. All personnel are behind the firing line. Individuals are on active firing points and may be authorized by the Range Officer to handle rifles, dry fire and load and start live firing.	A formal declaration that a range is "hot" means that a firing exercise is about to begin and that no one may move forward of the firing line.
Line is Safe	The firing line has been made safe so that personnel may go forward of the firing line. All air rifles have been checked by a Range Officer and are grounded. No one is handling an air rifle.	A formal declaration that a range is "safe" means that all rifles are unloaded, checked and grounded.
Target Placement or Retrieval	On most ranges, it is necessary for cadets to go downrange to hang, change or retrieve targets. Cadets may go downrange for this purpose. No one may go downrange until all air rifles are unloaded, checked and grounded. After all air rifles are grounded, the Range Officer declares the " Line is Safe " and instructs cadets to go downrange to hang, change or retrieve their targets. After everyone returns from downrange and is behind the firing line, the Range Officer declares the " Line is Hot " and gives instructions to begin the next firing exercise .	No one is permitted to handle an air rifle for any reason while someone is downrange.
Giving Corrections or Instructions	Whenever it is necessary to give corrections or instructions to an individual firer, those instructions or corrections should never be given while the firer is attempting to fire a shot unless a serious safety hazard is involved. Instead, wait until the shot is fired, then approach the firer to give the instructions or corrections in such a way as to not disturb or distract other firers. If the corrections or instructions involve all or most of the firers on the firing line, it is best to give the commands STOP, UNLOAD and to clear all rifles before giving the corrections or instructions.	By approaching close to an individual who is being given instructions or corrections that might involve changing a firing position, the Range Officer is also close enough to the firer to monitor and control how the firer handles his/her rifle while making the change.
Malfunctions	A malfunction occurs when an air rifle fails to fire or does not operate properly. Malfunctions must be cleared before the air rifle can be used for additional firing. If a malfunction cannot be cleared, the action must be opened, the gas pressure released (if possible) and the pellet removed from the barrel before the air rifle can be safely removed from the firing line. When a malfunction occurs, the clearing of the malfunction or removal of the air rifle from the firing line must be done by the Range Officer or JROTC instructor.	With the action remaining open, a pellet may be safely removed by inserting a cleaning rod from the muzzle end of the barrel. Under no conditions should a loaded air rifle be removed from the firing line without rendering it impossible for the rifle to fire (open action, discharging gas, pellet removal).
Going Downrange	No one may be authorized to move forward of the firing line until all air rifles are unloaded, checked by the Range Officer and grounded.	No one remaining on the firing line may handle air rifles when personnel are downrange.

Air Rifle Storage		
Storage Container	Air rifles should be stored in gun cases or gun racks.	
Security	Stored air rifles must be secured by at least two locks. This may include a lock on the storage container. JROTC Instructors must retain control of all keys or lock combinations.	
Care & Cleaning	Air rifles must be free of moisture and lightly oiled before storage. Air rifle barrels should be cleaned after a maximum of 1000 shots.	Air rifle barrel cleaning is done by using a cleaning rod or pull-through, a non petroleum-based solvent, brass brush and cleaning patches.
Storage Condition	Air rifles must be stored only in a discharged (no gas charge), unloaded condition. It is proper to close air rifle actions and release the triggers during storage.	When actions are closed and triggers released for storage, it is very important to make sure all rifle actions are opened as soon as they come out of the storage area or gun case for transportation to the range.
Gun Cases	Air rifles may be brought to the range in gun cases. If gun cases are used, any rifle removed from a case must immediately have its action opened and the muzzle elevated so that it points in a safe direction. When an air rifle is returned to a case, the action may be closed only when the gun case itself is being closed.	Even if a rifle is lying in an open case, its action must be open.
Health and Hygiene		
Confirming Unloaded Condition	When a range firing exercise is completed and air rifles are to be removed from the range and placed in storage, the instructor must confirm that they are in an unloaded condition, with no pellet in the barrel and no gas charge in the operating mechanism. Instruct each cadet in the last group of firers to cock their air rifles without loading a pellet. Then have each firer in turn close the bolt/action and release the trigger while they point the muzzle into a pellet discharge container held by the instructor. If a pellet was accidentally left in the barrel or a gas charge in the mechanism, this will assure that the air rifle meets all conditions for being unloaded before it is returned to storage.	This final confirming shot is needed with air rifles because it is not readily possible to visually verify that there is no pellet in the barrel or gas charge in the rifle's mechanism
Special Equipment	Range Officers should have a pellet discharge container and a .177 cal. cleaning rod on the range for use in unloading loaded rifles or in confirming the unloaded condition of rifles prior to their return to storage.	This equipment is used in emergencies to discharge loaded air rifles or to clear pellets out of malfunctioning air rifles.

Food	No food items of any kind are permitted on an air rifle range.	Eating food while handling lead pellets could cause lead ingestion.
Beverages	Water or other beverage items may be brought to a range, but only if the beverage container is closed (screw-top bottle, etc.)	
After Firing	After firing, all individuals who have handled air rifle pellets must wash their hands before any other activity.	Hands should preferably be washed in cold water.
Pellet Trap Cleaning	Only Instructors or other designated adults should handle spent air rifle pellets and remove them from the pellet traps or the range.	Cadets should not be used to clean pellet traps.
Air Rifle Gas/Air Cylinders		
Air Rifle Cylinders	Some air rifles used in JROTC marksmanship activities utilize compressed air or CO ₂ cylinders as a means of propulsion. Charged air cylinders can cause serious injury if handled improperly. Caution must be taken to prevent cylinders from striking the floor or any hard surface.	The loose handling or tossing of cylinders is strictly prohibited. Air rifle cylinders, nevertheless, are safe if handled properly and periodically inspected.
Inserting Cylinders	When screwing pre-compressed air cylinders into air rifles, care must be taken to only hand-tighten the cylinders. Removable replaceable CO ₂ cylinders require wrench tightening, but care must be taken to not over-torque them. When inserting cylinders, always stand to the side of the air rifle, never directly in line with the end of the cylinder.	Do not use wrenches or tools to tighten or over-tighten the cylinders.
Filling Cylinders	Cylinders must be filled from a larger, master tank. When attaching cylinders to the master tank by using an adapter, always stand to the side of the cylinder; do not allow its end or base to point at you or another person. Tighten the cylinder only tight enough to prevent any gas leakage.	Master tanks must be secured to prevent tipping over and damaging the valve systems, as they are high pressure storage systems.
Inspections	Manufacturers have established standards for the periodic inspection of older compressed air or CO ₂ cylinders. These inspection requirements must be followed.	

Range Officer Operating Procedures

JROTC Instructors must supervise all air rifle range firing on their unit's ranges. The JROTC Instructor may act as the Range Officer, who is directly in charge of firing, or may appoint another qualified adult, over the age **of 21, who** has completed the DL Marksmanship Course and LET Unit 7, Lesson 2 and passed both tests to act as a Range Officer who works under the Instructor's supervision. The Range Officer conducts range firing by using these commands, instructions and procedures.

Command/ Action Step	Procedure	Range Officer Notes
<i>Before firing begins:</i>	Step 1-Range and Equipment Preparation: Before firing, the Range Officer must prepare or supervise the preparation of the range for firing. Check to be sure target holders and backstops are in place and that the necessary supplies such as shooting mats, pellets and targets are available. Cadets may be assigned to bring these items from the storage area to the range. Cadets should not take positions on the firing line until they are called to their firing points by the Range Officer.	
<i>Before firing begins:</i>	Step 2-Assign Firing Points: Divide cadets who will be firing into groups or relays with one cadet assigned to each available firing point in each relay that is required.	
RELAY NUMBER 1, MOVE TO THE FIRING LINE or (MOVE YOUR RIFLES AND EQUIPMENT TO THE FIRING LINE)	Step 3-Call Relay to the Line: Call the cadets who will fire next to the firing line. Give the cadets on that relay an opportunity to move their rifles and equipment to the firing line if the necessary equipment is not already there. Be sure that all air rifle actions are open before moving rifles to the firing line.	
GROUND YOUR RIFLES. GO FORWARD AND HANG YOUR TARGETS	Step 4-Hang Targets: After firers are on their firing points, instruct them to ground their rifles (place them on the shooting mats or floor) with the rifle actions remaining open. Issue targets to each cadet and instruct them to go downrange and hang their targets.	

<p>THE LINE IS HOT. YOU MAY HANDLE YOUR RIFLES AND GET INTO THE (PRONE, STANDING, KNEELING) POSITION</p>	<p>Step 5-Preparation for Firing: When all cadets on that relay have returned from downrange, the Range Officer announces the beginning of a preparation period. During this period, cadets may handle their rifles and assume their firing positions. Help any cadets who need assistance in getting into a correct firing position. Once the cadets are in position, you may instruct them to dry fire by closing the bolts on their rifles (without charging them with air) so that they can practice the technique of firing before actually loading their air rifles. Later, if the cadets enter competitions, they will be given a formal "Preparation Period" of ten or five minutes when they may get into position, close their rifle actions and dry fire.</p>	
<p>IN THIS FIRING EXERCISE YOU WILL FIRE (Describe the firing exercise). LOAD, START</p>	<p>Step 6-Start Firing: At the end of the preparation period, after all cadets on that relay are ready and have been given a short opportunity to dry fire, the Range Officer describes the firing exercise (how <i>many shots-whether</i> shots may be <i>eked at the practice/sighting targets, whether there is a time limit</i>, etc.) and gives the commands that formally authorize cadets to load and begin firing. Be sure no cadet cocks or charges the rifle and/or places a pellet in the rifle until after the command <i>LOAD is</i> given. Be sure no cadet fires a shot until after the command START is given. If the firing exercise is timed, the time begins when the command START is given.</p>	
<p><i>During the shooting time:</i></p>	<p>Step 7-Monitor Firing: While cadets are firing, the Range Officer must constantly observe them to be sure muzzles remain pointed in a safe direction (up or downrange), especially during loading, and to assist, answer questions, deal with malfunctions and resolve any problems.</p>	

<p><i>During the shooting time (if required by a malfunction):</i></p>	<p>Step 8-Malfunctions: If at any time during firing, a rifle used by a cadet fails to fire or malfunctions, the cadet must inform the Range Officer immediately by raising his/her hand and declaring: "Malfunction." The Range Officer will then take control of the air rifle while keeping the muzzle pointed downrange. The Range Officer must examine the rifle to determine the cause of the malfunction (<i>Was the safety engaged? Was the bolt/action fully closed? Was the air chamber charged? Has a part in the mechanism broken?</i>). The Range Officer may then direct the cadet to attempt to fire another shot. Or, if the rifle cannot be used, it must be unloaded before it can be removed from the firing line. If the rifle can be fired, discharge the rifle into a pellet discharge container. If it cannot be fired, open the bolt/action and release the gas pressure by opening the cocking lever or unscrewing the gas cylinder. Then use a cleaning rod to remove the pellet from the barrel. The Range Officer must retain control of the malfunctioning air rifle until it can be taken to the storage area and repaired.</p>	
<p>DOES ANYONE NEED ADDITIONAL TIME?</p>	<p>Step 9-Confirm Completion of Firing: When cadets finish firing, they must open actions. Then they must ground their rifles on the floor or mat with the action open. The Range Officer checks the action to be sure it is open. Cadets who finish firing must step back from the firing line without disturbing other cadets, but they may not remove their rifles or equipment from the line until instructed to do so by the Range Officer.</p>	
<p>STOP, UNLOAD</p>	<p>Step 10-Stop Firing: When all cadets complete firing that exercise or if firing must be stopped for any other reason, the Range Officer gives the commands to stop firing and unload rifles. Any cadet who is still firing must stop immediately, open the bolt or action on his/her air rifle and hold the rifle so it is clearly visible to the Range Officer. Cadets must ground or set the rifle down with the muzzle pointing downrange after it has been cleared by a Range Officer.</p>	

<p><i>If there is still a loaded air rifle:</i></p>	<p>Step 11-Clear Loaded Rifles: If a cadet has a loaded air rifle with a charged gas/air chamber and/or with a pellet still in the barrel when the command STOP is given, the cadet must inform the Range Officer immediately by raising his/her hand and declaring: "Loaded Rifle". The Range Officer will direct the cadet to discharge the rifle into a pellet discharge container or to fire the rifle at a safe area of the backstop where there are no targets. The rifle can then be grounded after the Range Officer confirms that the bolt/action is open.</p>	
<p>THE LINE IS SAFE, GO FORWARD AND REPLACE (or REMOVE) YOUR TARGETS</p>	<p>Step 12-Retrieve and Hang Targets: After the Range Officer confirms that all air rifles are unloaded and grounded, the Range Officer instructs cadets to change targets. If the last relay/group of cadets has completed firing, go directly to Step 14.</p>	
<p>RELAY 1, MOVE BACK TO THE READY AREA, RELAY 2, YOU MAY MOVE TO THE FIRING LINE</p>	<p>Step 13-Change to Next Relay: When targets for the next position are hung and the Range Officer confirms that the line is safe (all cadets are behind the firing line and all air rifles remain grounded), the Range Officer calls the next relay (group) to the firing line. The Range Officer then repeats Steps 3-12 until that relay completes the same firing exercise.</p>	
<p>CADETS, REMOVE YOUR EQUIPMENT FROM THE FIRING LINE</p>	<p>Step 14-Close Range: When all firing is complete, the Range Officer must confirm that all rifles are unloaded before they can be safely placed in storage. To confirm that air rifles are in an unloaded condition, with no pellet in the barrel and no gas charge in the operating mechanism, instruct each cadet in the last group of firers to cock their air rifles without loading pellets. Then have each one, in turn, close the bolt/action and release the trigger while they point the muzzle into a pellet discharge container held by the Range Officer. If a pellet was accidentally left in the barrel or a gas charge in the mechanism, this will assure that the air rifle is unloaded before it is returned to storage. Cadets may then be instructed to take air rifles and other equipment from the range to the storage area.</p>	

Safety Definitions:

- **Unloaded Rifle.** The air rifle must 1) have its bolt/action open, 2) not have a pellet in the barrel and 3) not have an air/gas charge in the firing mechanism.
- **Grounded Rifle.** The air rifle must be 1) unloaded, 2) checked by a Range Officer to confirm it is unloaded, 3) placed on the floor, shooting mat or bench and 4) not handled by anyone in any way.
- **Line is Hot.** The firing line is prepared for the start of a firing exercise. All personnel are behind the firing line. Individuals are on active firing points and may be authorized by the Range Officer to handle rifles, dry fire and load and start live firing.
- **Line is Safe.** The firing line has been made safe so that personnel may go forward of the firing line. All air rifles have been checked by a Range Officer and are grounded. No one is handling an air rifle.
- **LOAD, START.** Formal commands that must be given by a Range Officer to authorize individuals on assigned firing points to charge their air rifles, load pellets in the barrel and start actual firing.
- **STOP, UNLOAD.** Formal commands that must be given by a Range Officer to stop live firing on a range. When these commands are given, everyone on a firing line must immediately stop any attempt they are making to fire and open the action on their air rifle. If their air rifle remains loaded (charged with air/gas or with a pellet in the barrel) they must keep the muzzle pointed downrange, raise their hand and announce to the Range Officer that they have a **Loaded Rifle**.

JROTC Cadet Individual Safety Pledge

This JROTC Cadet Individual Safety Pledge is to be reviewed and affirmed by all cadets who handle, use or fire air rifles in Army JROTC Rifle Marksmanship Programs.

Cadet Name:	School/JROTC Unit:
Key Words	Personal Actions
1. Obeying Commands & Instructions	An Army Instructor or Range Officer will be in charge of all range firing activities. I will listen to and immediately obey all commands and instructions given by this person.
2. Muzzle	Whenever I handle an air rifle, or guns of any kind, I will always maintain control of the muzzle so that it points in a safe direction. I will take special care to be sure I never point the muzzle at another person or myself.
3. Action	Whenever I handle an air rifle, or guns of any kind, I will immediately open the gun action (bolt or operating mechanism), or visually check to be sure the action is open. I will close a gun action only when I am on the firing line of a range and am authorized to do so by the Range Officer or instructor.
4. Trigger	Whenever I handle guns, I will do so without placing my finger on the trigger. I will place my finger on the trigger only when I am on the firing line, after I have placed my air rifle in a firing position and have begun to aim at the target.
5. Range Commands	I understand what the range commands LOAD, START, STOP and UNLOAD mean. I will respond properly to those commands whenever they are given.
6. Safe Loading	I will close the action of my air rifle or cock and load my air rifle only when I am on a designated firing point and have been given instructions or commands to do so. When I cock and load my air rifle I will take special care to keep the muzzle pointed up or downrange towards the targets.
7. Target	When I am firing on a range, I will fire only at my designated targets. I will not fire at anyone else's target or at any other objects on the range.
8. Malfunction	If, when I am on the firing line attempting to load or fire my air rifle, my air rifle fails to fire or malfunctions, I will keep the muzzle pointed downrange, raise my hand so the Range Officer can see it and announce " <i>Malfunction.</i> " I will wait for the Range Officer to give me instructions or clear the malfunction.

9. Firing Completed	Whenever I have fired my last shot in a firing exercise, I will immediately open the action on my air rifle and present it so that the Range Officer can confirm that it is open. Unless instructed to remove my air rifle from the firing line, I will ground the air rifle as soon as it is cleared by the Range Officer.
10. Loaded Air Rifle	If I still have a loaded air rifle after the command STOP is given, or even if I think there may still be a pellet or gas charge in my rifle, I will keep the muzzle pointed downrange, raise my hand so the Range Officer can see it and announce "Loaded Rifle." I will wait for the Range Officer to give instructions for unloading the rifle.
11. Going Downrange	I understand that whenever anyone must go downrange to hang targets or for any other reason, that my air rifle action must be opened, my rifle must be grounded and I may not handle my air rifle while anyone is forward of the firing line.
12. Hygiene	I will protect my health by never bringing food or open drink containers to the range. I will always wash my hands immediately after I finish firing on the range.
13. Emergency Range Officer	I am also responsible for making sure everyone around me handles guns safely. If I observe someone pointing a gun muzzle at another person, handling a gun with a closed action or handling a gun with their finger on the trigger, I will immediately instruct or help that person safely control the muzzle, open the action or take their finger off of the trigger.
14. Self-Discipline and Focus	I recognize that gun safety is possible only if I and my fellow cadets apply the self-discipline and focus to continually think safety every time we handle guns or shoot on the range.
15. Safety Goal	The safety goal for our JROTC unit is zero accidents. I want to be part of achieving that goal.

I understand and will follow each of these 15 personal commitments to gun safety. I accept full responsibility for making sure that my actions never cause a gun-related accident. I will always pay attention to safety when I handle guns and I will not tolerate unsafe gun handling actions by others.

Name

Signature

Date