



California Cadet Corps Curriculum on Military Knowledge



“On Target!”

M13/A: Firearms Safety



Agenda

[A1. Introduction to Firearms Safety](#)

[A2. Firearms Safety Rules](#)

[A3. Range Rules](#)



INTRODUCTION TO FIREARMS SAFETY

A1. Cadets are able to identify the safety rules used in rifle marksmanship and conduct themselves safely while handling weapons and on a range. Cadets pass the Firearms Safety Exam with 100%.



Intro to Firearms Safety

OBJECTIVES

Cadets are able to identify the safety rules used in rifle marksmanship and conduct themselves safely while handling weapons and on a range. Cadets pass the Firearms Safety Exam with 100%.

Plan of Action

1. Explain why Safety is important when using firearms.

Essential Question: Why is safety the governing principle when it comes to marksmanship training?



Introduction to Firearms Safety

firearm

noun

fire·arm | \ 'fī(-ə)r-, ärm \

Definition of *firearm*

: a weapon from which a shot is discharged by gunpowder —usually used of small arms

Synonyms: [arm](#), [gun](#), [heat](#) [slang], [piece](#), [small arm](#)



Introduction to Firearms Safety

Cadet Corps Marksmanship

The ability to shoot accurately at a target

- Firearms Safety
- Shooting Fundamentals
- Opportunities to practice shooting





Introduction to Firearms Safety

- Target rifle shooting is one of the ***safest*** of all youth sports
- Extremely low accident rates
- Continual emphasis on safety rules
- Sport of control and discipline
- All involved expected to know and apply safety rules at all times



Photo: US Army Cadet Command



Introduction to Firearms Safety

Because firearms can be so dangerous, we treat them

➤ **RESPECTFULLY**

➤ **CAUTIOUSLY**

➤ **SERIOUSLY**

Obey Safety Rules 100% of the time

- No Exceptions -



10 Commandments of Shooting Safety

1. Always point a weapon muzzle in a safe direction
2. Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or knocked arrow
3. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond your target
4. Unload firearms and unstring bows when not in use



10 Commandments of Shooting Safety

5. Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition carefully
6. Know your safe zone of fire and stick to it
7. Control your emotions when it comes to safety
8. Wear hearing and eye protection



10 Commandments of Shooting Safety

9. Don't drink alcoholic beverages or take drugs before or while handling firearms or bow and arrows
10. Be aware of additional circumstances which require added caution or safety awareness



Check on Learning

1. TRUE or FALSE:

Shooting is a very dangerous sport.

2. Which of the following is NOT one of the 10 Commandments of Shooting Safety?

- a. Always point a weapon muzzle in a safe direction.
- b. Control your hormones when it comes to safety.
- c. Wear hearing and eye protection.
- d. Be sure of your target and what is in front of and beyond your target.

3. TRUE or FALSE:

Cadets who violate a safety rule on a rifle range will only be given one reminder.



FIREARM SAFETY RULES

A2. Explain the safety rules associated with the parts of the rifle: Muzzle, Action, Trigger (MAT)



Firearms Safety Rules

OBJECTIVES

Cadets are able to identify the safety rules used in rifle marksmanship and conduct themselves safely while handling weapons and on a range. Cadets pass the Firearms Safety Exam with 100%.

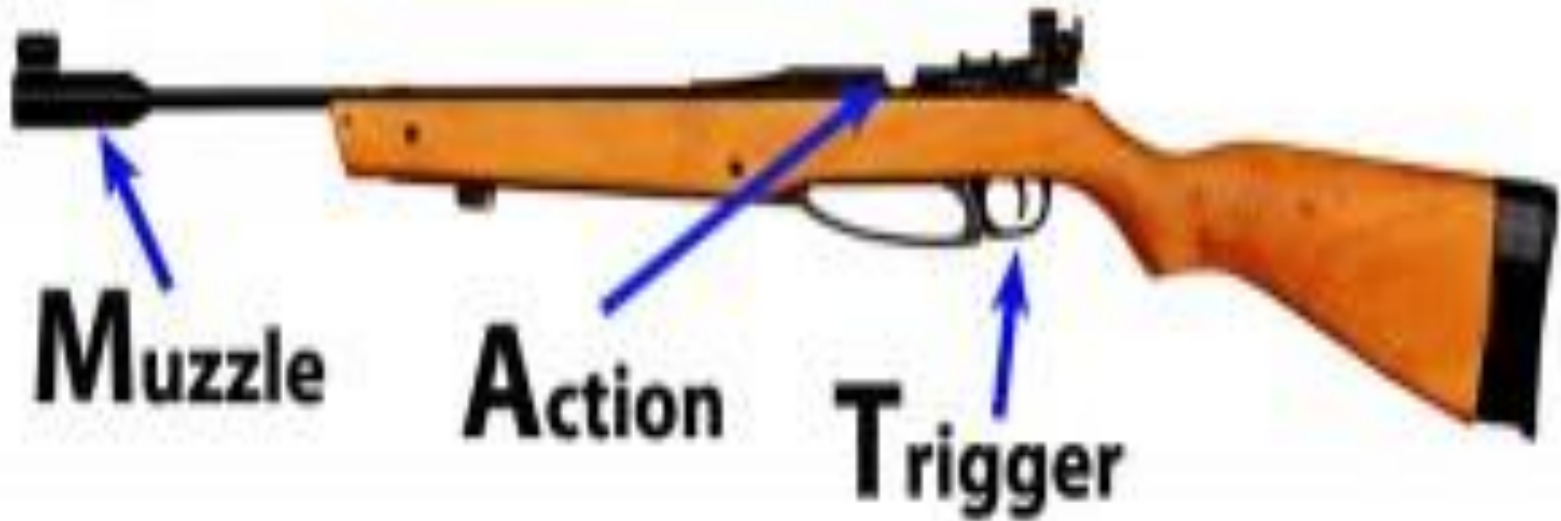
Plan of Action

2. Explain the safety rules associated with the parts of the rifle: Muzzle, Action, Trigger (MAT).

Essential Question: What does MAT stand for in firearms safety, and what are the essential safety rules associated with each letter?



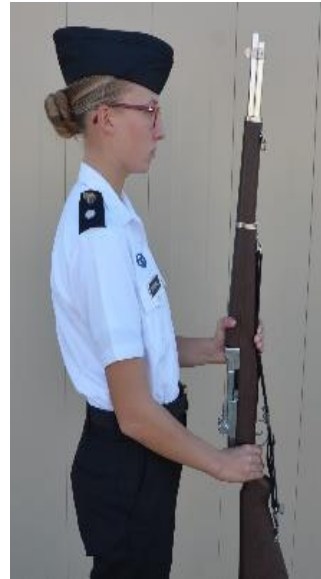
Basic Firearm Safety Rule





MAT: Muzzle

Muzzle – the forward end of the barrel where the bullet comes out



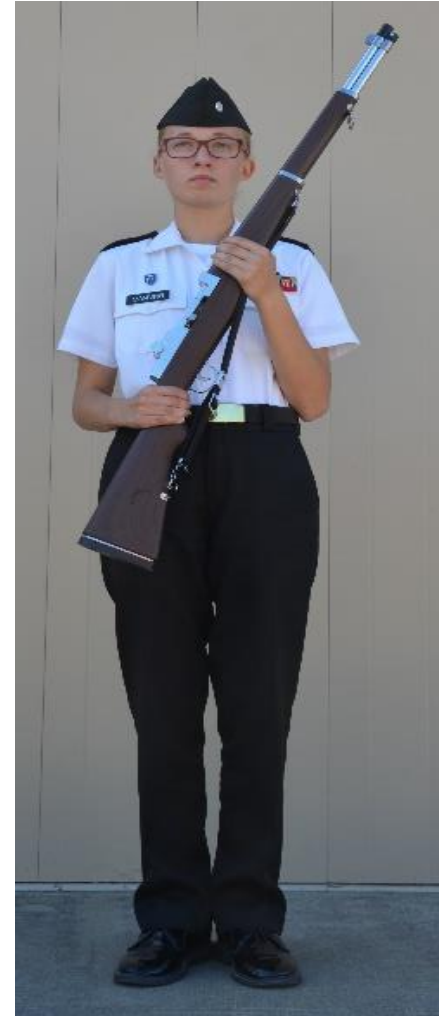
Always keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction

Usually, that means keep it pointed up and/or down-range.



MAT: Muzzle

When you take a rifle into your hands, the **first thing you do** is make sure it's pointed in a safe direction.





MAT: Action

Action – the working mechanism of the gun – where you put the bullets in.



Photo: 2007.07.21 Gydnia, Open bolt of rifle.jpg - Wikimedia Commons



MAT: Action

When you take a rifle into your hands, the **first thing you do** is make sure it's pointed in a safe direction.

Next, you examine the action to make sure the rifle isn't loaded – no bullet in the chamber.



Photo: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3162586>



MAT: Action

Use a safety enhancer – a chamber plug or clear barrel indicator (CBI) – that visually shows the gun is not loaded.



Photo: ebay.com



Photo: US Army Cadet Command



MAT: Trigger

Trigger – the part of the rifle that initiates firing a bullet.

Never put your finger on the trigger until you're ready to shoot!



Photo: US Army Cadet Command



Firearms Safety

Always handle a gun as if it is loaded.

- Don't point it at anyone / anything you're not going to shoot
- Keep your finger off the trigger
- Store it safely
- Know how to use the gun safely
- Be situationally aware – of what's around you, what's beyond the target



Dry Firing

- Dry-Firing is the action of cocking the trigger mechanism and squeezing the trigger, without loading a round. It is done to practice the firing process, particularly the processes of aiming, breath control, and trigger squeeze.
- Dry-Firing is a good way to review fundamentals and get your head in the game. Even though the rifle remains unloaded, still follow all the rules about pointing it at a safe place.



Check on Learning

1. What does MAT stand for in firearms safety?
2. Where is an acceptable place to point a rifle?
3. What is the FIRST thing you do when handed a rifle?
4. What is the SECOND thing you do when handed a rifle?
5. TRUE or FALSE:
To “dry fire” a round, you load a single round in the chamber.



RANGE RULES

A3. Identify the Range Rules and how they relate to how a range operates.

A4. Identify the meaning of the commands used on a rifle range in the CMP, NRA, and military styles.



Firearms Safety

OBJECTIVES

Cadets are able to identify the safety rules used in rifle marksmanship and conduct themselves safely while handling weapons and on a range. Cadets pass the Firearms Safety Exam with 100%.

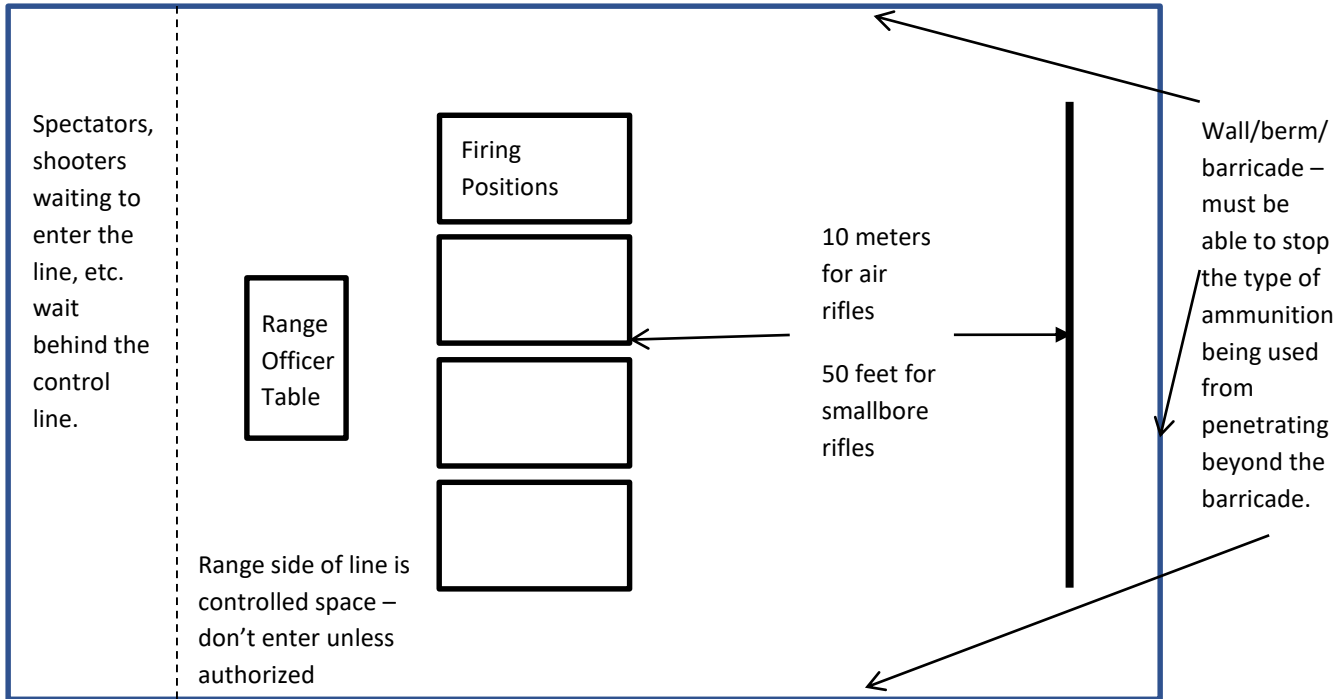
Plan of Action

3. Identify the Range Rules and how they relate to how a range operates.
4. Identify the meaning of the commands used on a rifle range in the CMP, NRA, and military styles.

Essential Question: What are the guiding rules when on a rifle range?



Range Rules



A Typical Range Setup



Range Officer

The Range Officer controls the range. All actions on a range are at the direction of the Range Officer. People don't enter the range without the permission of the Range Officer if the range is operational. On a military range, this function may be performed by a Tower NCO, whether there's a range tower or PA system. All orders come from the Tower or Range Officer.



Weapons

- At the firing line, weapons must be safe until you're ready to fire - unloaded, pointing downrange, with CBI or barrel plug inserted, bolt to the rear, Safety switch engaged.
- When going to and from the firing line, keep weapons pointed up and downrange.
- When exiting the range after firing, the Range Officer will check and clear each weapon.





CMP Range Commands

- LOAD – You can charge (pump) your air rifle and load a pellet in it
- START – Shooters may begin to fire at targets
- STOP – Immediately stop firing. Open the action, ground the rifle, and insert a CBI.





Unloading an Air Rifle

If you still have a loaded air rifle when the command Stop is given, remain in position and keep it pointed downrange. Raise your hand to indicate your rifle is still loaded. Follow the Range Officer's instructions.

You may have to fire any remaining pellets into a pellet discharge container.





NRA Range Commands

- Commence Firing
- Cease Firing
- Cease Firing – Bolts Open – Insert your ECIs
- Ready on the Left/Right?
- Go Forward and Change Targets
- Remove your Equipment from the Line for the Next Relay



Military Range Commands

- Firers, assume a good prone supported firing position
- Lock and load a magazine of three rounds
- Ready on the Left/Right? The Firing Line is Ready
- Take your weapon off Safe
- Commence Firing
- Cease Firing, lock and clear all weapons
- Clear on the Left/Right? The Firing Line is Clear



Going Downrange

If anyone goes downrange for any reason (i.e. to put up or fix a target), all weapons must be grounded with CBI inserted. No handling of rifles if anyone is downrange.





Firing

Shoot only the target associated with your position. Don't shoot anything other than targets (at outdoor ranges, this includes animals, blowing garbage, etc.)





Safety

- No horseplay of any kind.
- If you see anything unsafe, anyone can command STOP-STOP-STOP or CEASE FIRE. Everyone present is responsible for both their own safe actions and the actions of those around them.
- All personnel on a range are encouraged to wear eye and hearing protection
- All personnel who handle lead pellets must not handle food during shooting, and must wash their hands immediately after completing shooting.



Rifle Malfunction

If your rifle malfunctions while you're shooting it on a range, stay calm. Keep the muzzle pointed downrange, raise your hand so the Range Officer or your Coach can see there's a problem, and wait for instructions.



Check on Learning

1. Who is in charge at a range?
2. What is the command in an emergency to get shooters to stop firing?
3. TRUE or FALSE:
After the commands to LOAD and START have been given, it's okay to lay a loaded rifle on your shooting mat and step away from the firing line.