Chapter 9: Weapons & Use of Force

1. Weapons Overview

   a. Firearm Safety - The single largest factor in accidents involving firearms is the assumption that the weapon is not loaded. The four cardinal rules in weapon safety are:

   - Treat every weapon as if it were loaded
   - Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot
   - Keep finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire
   - Keep weapon on safe until you intend to fire

   b. Firearms - NSF who regularly perform law enforcement and security duties shall be armed. No person will be armed unless currently qualified in the use of assigned weapons. Weapons expected to be utilized by qualified personnel are, but not limited to:

   (1) M9 9mm Pistol
       (a) Max Effective Range: 50m
       (b) Max Range: 1800m

   (2) M11 Service Pistol
       (a) Max Effective Range: 46m
       (b) Max Range: 1800m
(3) .38 Caliber Revolver
   (a) Max Effective Range: 59m
   (b) Max Range: 992m

(4) AN/M8 Pyrotechnic Pistol
   (a) Max Effective Range: Varies by ammunition
   (b) Max Range: Varies by ammunition

(5) M500 Shotgun
   (a) Max Effective Range: 46m
   (b) Max Range: 604m

(6) MP5 Sub machinegun Operator
   (a) Max Effective Range: 550m
   (b) Max Range: 3600m
(7) M14 Service Rifle  
(a) Max Effective Range: 460m-700m  
(b) Max Range: 3725m

(8) M-16 (Series) Service Rifle  
(a) Max Effective Range: 550m  
(b) Max Range: 3600m

(9) M203 Grenade Launcher  
(a) Max Effective Range: 150m (Point Target)  
(b) Max Range: 400m

(10) M79 Grenade Launcher  
(a) Max Effective Range: 150m (Point Target)  
(b) Max Range: 400m

(11) Grenades (MK 3A2)  
(a) Max Effective Range: Thrown 40m  
(b) Max Range: 2m casualty Radius (On Land)
(12) MK46 Mod 0 Light Machinegun/M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW)
   (a) Max Effective Range: 800m (Point Target)
   (b) Max Range: 3725m

(13) M240 (B/N) Medium Machinegun
   (a) Max Effective Range: 800m
   (b) Max Range: 3725m

(14) M60 (Series) Machinegun
   (a) Max Effective Range: 1100m
   (b) Max Range: 3725m

(15) M-2 .50 Caliber Heavy Machinegun
   (a) Max Effective Range: 1829m
   (b) Max Range: 6767m

(16) MK19 MOD 3 40MM Grenade Machinegun
   (a) Max Effective Range: 1500m (Point Target)
(17) MK38 MOD 1 25MM Machinegun
   (a) Max Effective Range: 2457m
   (b) Max Range: 6800m

(18) MK44 MOD 0/1 Gun Weapon System
   (a) Max Effective Range: 914m
   (b) Max Range: 3200m

(19) M107 Long Range Sniper Rifle
   (a) Max Effective Range: 2000 yards
   (b) Max Range: 7450 yards

**OPNAVINST 5530.14E Chapter 6 & 8, Navy Physical Security and Law Enforcement Program**
**OPNAVINST 3591.1F, Small Arms Training and Qualification**
**NTRP 3-07.2.2 Force Protection Weapons Handling Standard Procedures and Guidelines**

c. Nonlethal Weapons (NLW). Today’s world events mandate a need to project non-lethal force across all levels of war to enable our warfighters and leaders to effectively deal with a host of traditional as well as nontraditional threats. Now more than ever, the minimal level of tolerance for collateral damage and loss of human life, coupled with the tendency for the typical adversary to exploit the rules of engagement (ROE) to his benefit, necessitates an effective and flexible application of force through non-lethal weapons. Much like a rheostat switch...
in which power can be dialed up or down as desired, NLW provide tools to allow a commander to employ sufficient force to accomplish an objective without requiring the destruction of an enemy or the habitat. The intent of employing NLW is not to add another step in the progression of escalation with an adversary, but to add another tool to use anywhere along that continuum. The Training Supervisor is responsible for ensuring all personnel assigned to Security duties are properly qualified in the use of NLW by completing the required curriculum.

**OPNAVINST 5530.14E Chapter 6 & 8, Navy Physical Security and Law Enforcement Program**

**NTTP 3-07.3.2, Tactical Employment of Non-Lethal Weapons**

**NTRP 3-07.2.2 Chapter 14, Force Protection Weapons Handling Standard Procedures and Guidelines**

(1) Examples of nonlethal means include: a show of force, physical obstacles, riot control agents (RCA), noise to create or enhance psychological effects, smoke and obscurants to mask operations or defeat homing and guidance mechanisms, batons, handcuffs/restraints, and use of light to disorient combatants.

**NTTP 3-07.3.2 Chapter 1, Tactical Employment of Non-Lethal Weapons**

d. Use of Force.

**CJCSI 3121.01B, Enclosure L, Standing Rules Of Engagement/Standing Rules for the Use of Force for US Forces**

(1) Serious Bodily Harm. Does not include minor injuries, such as a black eye or a bloody nose, but does include fractured or dislocated bones, deep cuts, torn members of the body, serious damage to the internal organs, and other life-threatening injuries.

(2) Deadly Force. Force that a person uses causing, or that a person knows or should know would create a substantial risk of causing, death or serious bodily harm.

(a) Deadly force is justified only under conditions of extreme necessity and when all three of the following circumstances are present:

1. Lesser means have been exhausted, are unavailable, or cannot be reasonably employed,

2. The risk of death or serious bodily harm to innocent persons is not significantly increased by use, and

3. The purpose of its use is one or more of the following:

   a. Inherent Right of Self-Defense. Deadly Force is authorized when DoD Unit Commanders reasonably believe that a person poses an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm to DoD Forces. Unit self-defense includes the

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defense of other DoD Forces in the vicinity. (Unit Commanders always retain the inherent right and obligation to exercise unit self-defense in response to a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent. Unless otherwise directed by a unit commander as detailed below, service members may exercise individual self-defense in response to a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent. When individuals are assigned and acting as part of a unit, individual self-defense should be considered a subset of unit self-defense. As such, Unit Commanders may limit individual self-defense by members of their unit.)

b. Defense of Others. Deadly Force is authorized in defense of non-DoD persons in the vicinity when directly related to the assigned mission.

c. Assets Vital to National Security. Deadly Force is authorized when deadly force reasonably appears to be necessary to prevent the actual theft or sabotage of assets vital to national security. (For the purposes of DoD operations, defined as President-designated non-DoD and/or DoD property, the actual theft or sabotage of which the President determines would seriously jeopardize the fulfillment of a national defense mission and would create an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm. Examples may include, but are not limited to, nuclear weapons; nuclear command and control facilities; and designated restricted areas containing strategic operations assets, sensitive codes or special access programs.)

d. Inherently Dangerous Property. Deadly Force is authorized when deadly force reasonably appears to be necessary to prevent the actual theft or sabotage of inherently dangerous property. (Property is considered inherently dangerous if, in the hands of an unauthorized individual, it would create an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm. Examples may include, but are not limited to: portable missiles, rockets, arms, ammunition, explosives, chemical agents and special nuclear materials. On-scene DoD commanders are authorized to classify property as inherently dangerous.)

e. National Critical Infrastructure. Deadly Force is authorized when deadly force reasonably appears to be necessary to prevent the sabotage of national critical infrastructure. (For the purposes of DoD operations, defined as President-designated public utilities, or similar critical infrastructure, vital to public health or safety, the damage to which the President determines would create an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm.)

f. Serious Offenses Against Persons. Deadly Force is authorized when deadly force reasonably appears to be necessary to prevent the commission of a serious offense that involves imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm.
(for example, setting fire to an inhabited dwelling or sniping), including the defense of other persons, where deadly force is directed against the person threatening to commit the offense. Examples include murder, armed robbery and aggravated assault.

g. Escape. Deadly Force is authorized when deadly force reasonably appears to be necessary to prevent the escape of a prisoner, provided there is probable cause to believe that such person(s) have committed or attempted to commit a serious offense, that is, one that involves imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm, and would pose an imminent threat of death or serious bodily harm to DoD Forces or others in the vicinity.

h. Arrest or Apprehension. Deadly Force is authorized when deadly force reasonably appears necessary to arrest or apprehend a person who there is probable cause to believe has committed a serious offense.

(3) Continuum of Force. The minimum force necessary shall be used by armed sentries to compel compliance and prevent further actions by an aggressor. If escalation of force is necessary, there are two distinct Use of Force Continuums listed in the following references:

(a) NTTP 3-07.2.1, Chapter 7.2 states:
   1. Professional Presence
   2. Verbalizations
   3. Restraining/Detaining Techniques
   4. Compliance Techniques
   5. Intermediate Force
   6. Lethal Force

(b) NTRP 3-07.3.2, Chapter III-28 states:
   1. Presence
   2. Communication
   3. Physical Control
      a. Soft Techniques
      b. Hard Techniques
   4. Nonlethal Force
   5. Deadly Force

e. Warning Shots

(1) Naval Message 150158Z SEP 07 SUBJ/USE OF WARNING SHOTS AGAINST SURFACE WATERBORNE THREATS outlines the use of warning shots.
(2) This guidance applies to naval vessels, naval service vessels (including military sealift command, government-owned and United States flag time-chartered vessels), harbor security boats (HSB), picket boats and piers, and units under USN control only. Units under USCG control will follow the use of force policy for warning shots as issued by the commandant USCG, per 14 USC 637.

(3) Warning shots are authorized from crew-served weapons and rifles in the territorial seas and internal waters of the United States, its territories, and possessions.

(4) Commanders Intent.

(a) Determining the intent of an approaching or in close vessel is critical. When time and circumstances permit, in order to facilitate the determination of hostile intent, watchstanders must take quick and decisive action to warn vessels away, but have a limited toolset (ship's whistle, flares, bullhorns, bridge-to-bridge radios, etc.) with which to accomplish this.

(b) Warning shots are an additional tool in the watch stander's toolbox. A warning shot used against a waterborne vessel does not constitute deadly force when correctly employed, and a failure to heed a warning shot is usually a clear indication of hostile intent. Therefore, a warning shot is an effective way to both communicate a warning and determine intent. The use of warning shots, however, should be limited to circumstances when there exists no other reasonable means available to determine the intent of the approaching craft without increasing the threat to U.S. Navy, naval service vessels and personnel. Furthermore, the use of deadly force to protect a ship and its crew against a small boat attack is not contingent on firing a warning shot. A warning shot represents the last option in the continuum of actions prior to the use of deadly force and should be employed as such.

(5) Weapons authorized for warning shots:

- M-14/M-16 Rifles
- M-60/M-43 Medium Machine Gun
- M-240 Medium Machine Gun
- M2 50 Caliber Heavy Machine Gun
- M-46 Light Machine Gun
Standing Rules Of Engagement (SROE) for US Forces:

(1) Purpose and Scope:
   (a) The purpose of the SROE is to provide implementation guidance on the application of force for mission accomplishment and the exercise of self-defense. The SROE establish fundamental policies and procedures governing the actions to be taken by US commanders during all military operations and contingencies and routine Military Department functions. This last category includes Antiterrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP) duties, but excludes law enforcement and security duties on DoD installations, and off-installation while conducting official DoD security functions, outside US territory and territorial seas. SROE also apply to air and maritime homeland defense missions conducted within US territory or territorial seas, unless otherwise directed by the Secretary of Defense (SecDef).

   (b) Unit commanders at all levels shall ensure that individuals within their respective units understand and are trained on when and how to use force in self-defense. To provide uniform training and planning capabilities, this document is authorized for distribution to commanders at all levels and is to be used as fundamental guidance for training and directing of forces.

   (c) The policies and procedures in CJCSI 3121.01B are in effect until rescinded. Supplemental measures may be used to augment these SROE.

   (d) US forces will comply with the Law of Armed Conflict during military operations involving armed conflict, no matter how the conflict may be characterized under international law, and will comply with the principles and spirit of the Law of Armed Conflict during all other operations.

   (e) US forces performing missions under direct control of heads of other USG departments or agencies (e.g.,
Marine Corps Embassy Security Guards and other special security forces), operate under use of force policies or ROE promulgated by those departments or agencies, when authorized by the SecDef. US forces always retain the right of self-defense.

(f) US Forces Operating With Multinational Forces:

1. US forces assigned to the operational control (OPCON) or tactical control (TACON) of a multinational force will follow the ROE of the multinational force for mission accomplishment, if authorized by SecDef order. US forces retain the right of self-defense. Apparent inconsistencies between the right of self-defense contained in US ROE and the ROE of the multinational force will be submitted through the US chain of command for resolution. While a final resolution is pending, US forces will continue to operate under US ROE.

2. When US forces, under US OPCON or TACON, operate in conjunction with a multinational force, reasonable efforts will be made to develop common ROE. If common ROE cannot be developed, US forces will operate under US ROE. The multinational forces will be informed prior to US participation in the operation that US forces intend to operate under US ROE.

3. US forces remain bound by international agreements to which the US is a party even though other coalition members may not be bound by them.

(g) International agreements (e.g., status-of-forces agreements) may never be interpreted to limit US forces' right of self-defense.

(2) Policy:
(a) Unit commanders always retain the inherent right and obligation to exercise unit self-defense in response to a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent.

(b) Once a force is declared hostile by appropriate authority, US forces need not observe a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent before engaging the declared hostile force.

(c) The goal of US national security policy is to ensure the survival, safety, and vitality of our nation and to maintain a stable international environment consistent with US national interests. US national security interests guide global objectives of deterring and, if necessary, defeating armed
attack or terrorist actions against the US, including US forces, and, in certain circumstances, US persons and their property, US commercial assets, persons in US custody, designated non-US military forces, and designated foreign persons and their property.

(d) Combatant Commander Theater-Specific ROE:
   1. Combatant commanders may augment these SROE as necessary by implementing supplemental measures or by submitting supplemental measures requiring SecDef approval to the CJCS.
   
   2. US commanders shall notify the SecDef, through the CJCS, as soon as practicable, of restrictions (at all levels) placed on Secretary of Defense-approved ROE/RUF. In time critical situations, make SecDef notification concurrently to the CJCS. When concurrent notification is not possible, notify the CJCS as soon as practicable after SecDef notification. *CJCSI 3121.01B Standing Rules Of Engagement/Standing Rules for the Use of Force for US Forces*

   g. Lautenburg Amendment.

   (1) The Lautenberg Amendment was an amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968. It expanded the group of firearm prohibited persons to those who have ever been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence. The effect is to make it a felony for anyone with any DV conviction to own or even handle any firearm or ammunition. It does not matter if the DV conviction occurred before the 1996 enactment of the Lautenberg Amendment.

   (2) The impact on those in the military is particularly significant. There is no exception for those in the military during the scope of their official duties.

   (3) Lautenberg also made those under a domestic restraining order into prohibited persons.

2. Qualification Criteria for Pistols.

   a. Qualification Criteria. All Navy personnel armed with a pistol are required to qualify on the Navy Handgun Qualification Course. Category II and above personnel are additionally required to qualify on the Handgun Practical Weapons Course and Handgun Lowlight Course annually. Due to safety concerns, there are no requirements to fire the Handgun Lowlight Course or the Handgun Practical Weapons Course while at sea. For IA's and deployed afloat commands, qualification/sustainment may be
extended until 2 months after return to unit when a range or simulator is not available. Before each qualification shoot, all personnel shall receive Marksmanship/Safety/Weapon Familiarization Training. If available, the Handgun Practical Weapons Course and Handgun Lowlight Course of Fire (COF) shall be accomplished on a simulator programmed with these COF’s. Personnel performing annual qualification in this manner shall perform the complete live-fire qualification requirement at their next semi-annual sustainment point. Training records shall record and highlight that limited live fire training and simulator training was used to fulfill the qualification requirement as specified in this paragraph.

b. Sustainment Criteria. All personnel must requalify with live fire annually. All personnel are also required to undergo semiannual sustainment training between qualification shoots, not to exceed 8 months after the last live fire qualification. The requirements for semiannual sustainment training are outlined in OPNAVINST 3591.1.

c. Marksmanship Awards. The Navy Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon, Navy Sharpshooter Award, and Navy Expert Pistol Medal may be earned on the Navy Handgun Qualification Course.

d. Service Pistol Condition Codes:

- **CONDITION 1**: Magazine Inserted, Slide Forward, Round in Chamber, Safety ON (M9)
- **CONDITION 2**: Not Applicable to M9 or M11 pistol
- **CONDITION 3**: Magazine Inserted, Slide Forward, Chamber Empty, Safety ON (M9)
- **CONDITION 4**: Magazine Removed, Slide Forward, Chamber Empty, Safety ON (M9)

OPNAVINST 3591.1F, Small Arms Training and Qualification enclosure 3


a. Qualification Criteria. All Navy personnel armed with a rifle are required to qualify on the Rifle Qualification and rifle low light Courses. This enclosure specifically addresses the M14 and M16 (series) rifles, to include the M4A1, M727, and Mk-18 Carbines. Due to safety concerns, there is no requirement to fire the Rifle Lowlight Course while at sea. For IA's and deployed afloat commands, qualification/sustainment may be extended until 2 months after return to their unit when a range
or simulator is not available. If available, the Rifle Lowlight Course of Fire (COF) shall be accomplished on a simulator programmed with this COF. Before each qualification shoot, all personnel shall receive Marksmanship/Safety/Weapon Familiarization Training. Personnel performing annual qualification in this manner shall perform the complete live-fire qualification requirement at their next semi-annual sustainment point. Training records shall record and highlight that limited live fire training and simulator training was used to fulfill the qualification requirement as specified in this paragraph.

b. Sustainment Criteria. All Navy personnel armed with a rifle must requalify annually on the Rifle Qualification Course and the Rifle Lowlight Course. All Navy personnel armed with a rifle must also undergo semiannual sustainment training between qualification shoots, not to exceed 8 months after the last live fire qualification. The requirements for semiannual sustainment training are outlined in OPNAVINST 3591.1F enclosure 4 paragraph 7.

c. Marksmanship Awards. The Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon, Navy Sharpshooter Award and Navy Expert Rifle Medal may be earned on the Rifle Qualification Course. The Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon, Navy Sharpshooter Award, and Navy Expert Rifle Medal must be earned using a rifle equipped with iron sights or non-telescopic dot type sights. The use of scoped rifles is prohibited.

d. Service Rifle Condition Codes:

- **CONDITION 1**: Magazine Inserted, Bolt Forward, Round in Chamber, Safety ON
- **CONDITION 2**: Not Applicable
- **CONDITION 3**: Magazine Inserted, Bolt Forward, Chamber Empty, Ejection Port Cover Closed, Safety ON
- **CONDITION 4**: Magazine Removed, Bolt Forward, Chamber Empty, Ejection Port Cover Closed, Safety ON

OPNAVINST 3591.1F, Small Arms Training and Qualification enclosure 4


a. Qualification Criteria. All Navy personnel armed with the shotgun are required to qualify on the Shotgun Practical Weapons Course. Before each qualification shoot, all personnel
shall receive training per OPNAVINST 3591.1F enclosure 5 paragraph 4. Due to safety concerns, there are no requirements to fire a qualification or sustainment course with the shotgun while at sea. However, at every opportunity, trainers shall ensure that personnel are qualified at a shore-based range. For IA's and deployed afloat commands, qualification/sustainment may be extended until 2 months after return to their unit when a range or simulator is not available.

b. Sustainment Criteria. All Navy personnel armed with a shotgun must requalify annually on the Shotgun practical Weapons Course. All personnel armed with a shotgun must also undergo semiannual sustainment training between qualification shoots, not to exceed 8 months. The requirements for semiannual sustainment training are outlined in OPNAVINST 3591.1F enclosure 5 paragraph 6.

c. Service Shotgun Condition Codes:

- **CONDITION 1:** Magazine Tube Filled, Round in Chamber, Breech Bolt Forward, Action Closed, Weapons on Safe
- **CONDITION 2:** Not Applicable
- **CONDITION 3:** Magazine Tube Filled, Chamber Empty, Breech Bolt Forward, Action Closed, Weapon on Safe
- **CONDITION 4:** Magazine Tube Empty, Chamber Empty, Breech Bolt Forward, Action Closed, Weapon on Safe

OPNAVINST 3591.1F, Small Arms Training and Qualification enclosure 5

5. Qualification Criteria for Light, Medium and Heavy Machine Gun Performance Evaluation.

a. **Weapons.** M60 and MK43 (variants) 7.62MM medium machine guns, M240 (variants) 7.62MM medium machine guns, and MK46 Mod 0 (M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW)) 5.56MM light machine guns.

b. **Performance Evaluation Criteria.** All Category II Navy personnel armed with light and medium machine guns must successfully pass the Performance Evaluation Standard annually per OPNAVINST 3591.1E enclosure 6. For IA’s and deployed afloat commands, qualification/sustainment may be extended until 2 months after return to their unit when a range or simulator is not available. All Navy personnel who employ machine guns with the bipod or in a mounted "free gun" mode shall shoot the "Light and Medium Machine Gun Performance Evaluation Course" as well as attend prescribed training. All Navy personnel that employ
machine guns with a tripod/T&E mechanism may also shoot the "Machine Gun Performance Evaluation Course - Tripod/T&E" Mechanism.

c. Pre-requisites. Classroom training must be conducted before any sustainment, simulator, blank fire, or live fire training evolution.

d. Required Sustainment Training. All Navy personnel armed with light and medium machine guns are required to undergo semiannual sustainment training, not to exceed 8 months. Sustainment training shall include, but is not limited to, classroom instruction, dry fire training, weapons manipulation drills utilizing dummy rounds, simulator training, blank fire training, and/or additional live fire training when feasible.

e. Medium Machine Gun Condition Codes:

- **CONDITION 1**: Ammunition on Feed Tray, Bolt Locked to Rear, Weapon on Safe, Cover Closed.
- **CONDITION 2**: Not Applicable.
- **CONDITION 3**: Ammunition on Feed Tray, Bolt Forward on Empty Chamber, Weapon on Fire, Cover Closed
- **CONDITION 4**: Feed Tray Clear, Bolt Forward on Empty Chamber, Weapon on Fire, Cover Closed

**OPNAVINST 3591.1F enclosure 6**