

Chapter 7

RANGE MAINTENANCE

INTRODUCTION

0701. **General.** The proper maintenance of all land ranges is an essential requirement, both to ensure the maximum benefit for training as well as to ensure that the safety features of the range design are kept up to the standards set by the MOD. A methodical system of regular planned maintenance and regular inspections is required, along with an emergency repair system to cover abnormal wear caused by intensive training or adverse weather conditions.

0702. **Aim.** The aim of this chapter is to set out the MOD policy for the maintenance of land ranges. This forms the basis of more detailed instructions that will be issued by the DE Staff, MOD appointed contractors/partners and the RAUs who are responsible for providing safe range facilities. The following aspects are covered:

- a. Introduction. 0701 - 0702
- b. Policy 0703 - 0712
- c. Pollution Control Measures 0713

POLICY

0703. The appointed RAU will be responsible for monitoring the maintenance work specified in the appropriate contract for the range or ranges under its control and for reporting any failings or deficiencies through the chain of command. It is the duty of the RAU to keep the structure, equipment, stores, facilities, and the general area of the range for which it is responsible in a good and safe working condition. It is the duty of the RAO to monitor and advise on the provision of safe range facilities

0704. Maintenance is to be carried out on a regular and systematic basis. To achieve this, consideration is to be given to the planned periodic closure of a range or parts of it. Past experience indicates that approximately 52 days maintenance per year is normally required to keep the average small arms range at a satisfactory standard of safety.

0705. The system of inspections to ensure that ranges are safe includes a requirement to ensure that they are properly maintained. The inspections which form part of the maintenance cycle are outlined in Chapter 8.

0706. The structure of the range, its fabric and its ancillary facilities are to be kept up to the requirements set out in the appropriate 'As Built' or 'Record' drawing. Detailed guidance and aspects requiring particular attention on SA and infantry weapon ranges are given in the relevant chapters of Volume II of this JSP.

0707. Some range equipment, such as electric targets and their control mechanisms as well as the communication systems, is maintained and repaired or replaced under contract arrangements made by the DTE. It is the duty of the RAU to maintain such equipment in accordance with the instructions issued by or on behalf

of the equipment sponsor and to ensure that contract repair and maintenance is carried out properly and at the correct intervals.

0708. The RAU is also responsible for ensuring that other items, such as boundary and Byelaw notices, which are essential for the safety of the range, are correctly maintained and regularly inspected. Most of these items are funded through the DE with the actual work being carried out by the appointed contractors/partners or the range staff. See Chapter 5 for further details on items required for warning of hazard and for controlling access.

0709. Other instructions, such as Defence Information Notices (DIN), concerning maintenance of ranges and range facilities are issued from time to time. The RAU is to pay particular attention to these instructions and is to make sure that the range staff comply with those that are relevant to their range.

0710. Typically, those holding Range Warden appointments have responsibilities for some range maintenance and for reporting defects. The CO/Head of a RAU which has one or more Range Wardens on establishment must ensure that they are competent persons in accordance with the provisions of JSP 375, that duties are adequately explained in job descriptions and relevant orders, and that training is provided where necessary. Guidance on the duties and responsibilities of Range Wardens on small arms ranges is given in Annex Q to Chapter 2.

0711. The Land Range Log (MOD Form 906/906A/906B) is to be used by the RCO/DCO/TCO to draw attention to any defects found in the range structure, equipment and stores. The RAU and range staff are to record in the MOD Form 906/906A/906B all maintenance, repair and inspections carried out. Particular care must be taken to ensure that a complete record of unexploded blinds is maintained.

0712. Advice on the maintenance of ranges can be sought from the staff of the appropriate Service/organisation detailed in Annexes F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M and N to Chapter 2.

POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES

0713. Pollution control measures form part of the essential maintenance of land ranges to keep them up to the standards of safety required by the MOD. De-leading of sand filled bullet catchers is to be carried out and the waste sand disposed of in accordance with current regulations for contaminated waste. Measures relating to lead fumes, dust and particles in indoor training ranges and indoor training theatres are covered in detail in Chapter 30 of Volume II and are to be meticulously followed. Methods of cleaning should not create a risk from lead or unburned propellant to the cleaners or any other persons in the area, nor should they allow the spread of any contamination.