

CHAPTER 7

TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAM

The information in this chapter tells how to train the trainer, how to advise the trainer, and how to assist the trainer in preparing the crew for the three phases of MG marksmanship.

7-1. CONCEPT

The Train The Trainer Program must be planned properly and conclude with a certification program. In the planning phase, the instructor teaches the trainer to be flexible and thorough. He must plan alternate exercises in case weather or other constraints prohibit the originally scheduled training. Training must not follow rigid timetables that inhibit training and learning; instead, schedules should be established that provide sufficient time to correct mistakes and ensure learning. The following are factors that the trainers are taught to consider:

a. **Support.** Training requires support. The trainers must ensure that the training is conducted within the resource levels and that the training received justifies the material used. Public address systems should be used if the group is larger than a platoon-size element.

b. **Time.** Ample time must be allocated for each phase.

c. **Participants.** Trainers must consider whether or not the groups or individuals to be trained are capable of benefiting from the phases selected. (See paragraph 7-2a.)

d. **Safety.** Safety is the most important factor and therefore will be the main consideration. Trainers as well as the personnel to be trained will ensure all safety precautions are met. Anyone observing any unsafe act will immediately call CEASE FIRE or HALT to any training. A good way to emphasize safety is to give the students a test on the procedures. An example of a written examination on safety is shown in Figure 7-1, page 7-2.

SAFETY REQUIREMENT EXAM		
INSTRUCTIONS: Mark each answer as being true or false.		
T	F	
	✓	1. Firing can be done without a safety officer.
	✓	2. Firing can be done without correct headspace.
	✓	3. Firing can be done without correct timing.
✓		4. No gun should be loaded until the command to do so.
✓		5. Each gun is cleared and checked after it is fired.
✓		6.No one is allowed in front of the gun for any reason unless authorized by the OIC/NCOIC.
	✓	7. Guns can be fired outside safety areas.
	✓	8. Guns can be pointed at other personnel while clearing them.
✓		9. Firing stops immediately upon the command CEASE FIRE.
✓		10. Personnel will stay in designated safety areas until the command is given to leave by OIC/NCOIC.
Answer key: 1. F; 2. F; 3. F; 4. T; 5. T; 6. T; 7. F; 8. F; 9. T; 10. T.		

Figure 7-1. Safety examination.

7-2. TRAINER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The Trainer Certification Program is designed to build pride, confidence, and overall working/teaching knowledge of the functions, employment, and overall training of the MG. The trainer must know how to do all the tasks he is going to be teaching; the certification program determines his capability to do this. The program is conducted in three phases.

a. **Phase I: Basic Fundamentals of Marksmanship.** In this phase the instructor must ensure the trainers being trained perform dry fire techniques; prepare firing positions, fighting positions, and range cards; and manipulate the T&E mechanism. At the end of this phase, they will be given a hands-on examination to test their basic knowledge. This test may be developed by the OIC/NCOIC of the MG committee.

b. **Phase II: Basic Marksmanship.** In this phase, the trainer moves one step closer to becoming a skilled gunner. He must learn the correct procedures to zero the weapon; he must master the 10-meter target paster; and once this is accomplished, he must be able to engage targets on a transition range. He must show his mastery in this phase by engaging

targets at different ranges. Upon completion, the trainer is ready to move to the advanced stage of marksmanship.

c. **Phase III. Advanced Gunnery.** This is the final phase that the trainer has to achieve to standard.

(1) First, he must understand the procedures using the techniques of advanced gunnery.

(2) He must then learn tracking, which consists of maintaining correct alignment of the sights on a moving target by moving the gun at the same angular speed as that of the target.

(3) He will learn fire distribution next, which means he must be able to distribute fire over the entire target area.

(4) The last stage the trainer must learn is the correct assault fire techniques. During this stage, the gunner will normally fire on an FPL after the enemy has assaulted. He may also be given a PDF to fire at. Another assault method the trainer learns is to fire the weapon while it is mounted on a moving M113.

d. **Recertification Program.** All MG instructors are required to be recertified on a semi-annual basis. This will consist of the trainer being required to present a selected period of instruction within the current POI. The selection will be made by the CDR/OIC/NCOIC.

NOTE: Documentation of the results of the Trainer Recertification Program and the requirements must be maintained on file.

7-3. RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE TRAINER

The trainer must be present during the planning and during any instruction given. The success of the preparation and instruction of all training depends upon the thoroughness with which the trainer performs the following duties:

- He must assist the gunner in targeting the MG.
- He should require the gunner to inspect his equipment and MG.
- He should explain and require the gunner to explain the exercise that he is about to perform.
- He should ensure the gunner's sight picture is accurate.
- He must observe the gunner's position, grip, and manipulation during any firing.
- He must show the gunner how to adjust his fire by observation.
- He must point out errors and explain their effect on the exercise.

NOTE: Safety is a must during the entire certification program. The OICs/NCOICs must ensure that no unsafe acts are tolerated.