



# Department of Defense

## INSTRUCTION

NUMBER 3200.16  
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USD(P&R)

SUBJECT: Operational Range Clearance

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 3200.15, "Sustainment of Ranges and Operating Areas," January 10, 2003
  - (b) DoD Directive 4715.11, "Environmental and Explosives Safety Management on Operational Ranges Within the United States," May 10, 2004
  - (c) DoD Directive 4715.12, "Environmental and Explosives Safety Management on Operational Ranges Outside the United States," July 12, 2004
  - (d) Section 101 of title 10, United States Code

### 1. PURPOSE

This Instruction implements DoD policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures pursuant to reference (a) and in conformance with references (b) and (c) for conducting range clearance.

### 2. APPLICABILITY

This Instruction applies to:

2.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Departments (including their Reserve components), the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities of the Department of Defense (hereafter referred to collectively as the "DoD Components").

2.2. All operational ranges.

### 3. DEFINITIONS.

3.1. Range Clearance. The destruction or removal and proper disposition of used military munitions (e.g., unexploded ordnance (UXO) and munitions debris) and other range-related debris (e.g., target debris and military munitions packaging and crating material) to maintain or enhance operational range safety or prevent the accumulation of such material from impairing or preventing operational range use. “Range clearance” does not include removal, treatment, or remediation of chemical residues or munitions constituents from environmental media, nor actions to address discarded military munitions (e.g., burial pits) on operational ranges.

3.2. Munitions Debris. Remnants of military munitions (e.g., fragments, penetrators, projectiles, shell casings, links, fins) after military munitions use or demilitarization.

3.3. Range-Related Debris. Debris, other than munitions debris, collected from operational ranges.

3.4. The following terms used in this Instruction are defined in Section 101 of title 10, United States Code (reference (d)): “military munitions,” “operational range,” and “unexploded ordnance.”

### 4. POLICY

It is DoD policy to:

4.1. Use and manage operational ranges in ways that ensure their safety and long-term sustainability.

4.2. Periodically review operational range management policies and procedures to determine the degree and frequency of range clearance required to support the Department of Defense’s Sustainable Range Management Program.

### 5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness shall be the proponent of range clearance policy affecting training activities on operational ranges.

5.2. The Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics shall:

5.2.1. Be the proponent of range clearance technology requirements.

5.2.2. Designate a focal point within the Department of Defense who shall be responsible for:

5.2.1.1. Coordinating Joint Service range clearance technology requirements.

5.2.1.2. Transitioning Joint Service range clearance technology requirements into range clearance technology programs.

5.3. The Director, Operational Test and Evaluation shall be the proponent of range clearance policy affecting testing and evaluation activities on operational ranges.

5.4. The Heads of the DoD Components shall:

5.4.1. Plan, program, and administer range clearance programs to support operational range safety and sustainable use.

5.4.2. Identify range clearance technology requirements to the Department of Defense's focal point (see subparagraph 5.2.2.) and participate in transitioning these requirements into practical application at operational ranges.

5.4.3. Determine the frequency and degree to which range clearance is required to support operational range safety and sustainable use. For each operational range, this determination shall consider:

5.4.3.1. Previous range clearance.

5.4.3.2. Past, current, and anticipated use. When portions of an operational range are used for different purposes (e.g., impact area, small arms range, fire and maneuver, live or inert), the frequency and degree of range clearance may vary.

5.4.3.3. The types (e.g., small arms, grenades, artillery and tank rounds, bombs, and rockets) and quantities of military munitions used, including:

5.4.3.1.1. Military munitions containing high explosives.

5.4.3.1.2. Military munitions containing small spotting devices (e.g., practice bombs).

5.4.3.1.3. Training devices or simulators.

5.4.3.1.4. Depleted uranium military munitions.

5.4.3.4. The operational impacts from accumulated used or fired military munitions (e.g., UXO), munitions debris, and range-related debris.

5.4.3.5. The potential explosive hazards to range operators, users, installation personnel, and the public from accumulated used or fired military munitions, munitions debris, and range-related debris.

5.4.3.6. Compliance with applicable DoD policies related to operational ranges (e.g., explosives safety, demilitarization, disposal, and sustainable range management).

5.4.3.7. Requirements included in land withdrawals, leases, and other land use agreements.

5.4.3.8. The geophysical, topographical, climatic, and other conditions that may influence range clearance decisions.

5.4.3.9. The safety considerations inherent in range clearance.

5.4.4.0. The effectiveness of access controls in preventing trespassing.

5.4.4. Conduct an explosives safety hazard assessment before each range clearance. This assessment shall include, at a minimum, the rationale for the range clearance, the number of personnel required, support requirements, the types of military munitions anticipated to be encountered, the most hazardous munition expected, and expected UXO densities. A hazard assessment shall be included in the plan when range clearance is an integral or long-term part of a test or training plan. An explosives safety hazard assessment conducted before the initiation of a recurring range clearance program shall be updated when new hazards (e.g., military munitions types) are identified or new technologies or procedures are used.

5.4.4.1. In coordination with the Defense Logistics Agency, establish safe and practical methods that comply with applicable laws and regulations for recycling or for transferring or releasing munitions debris, range-related debris, and other material potentially presenting an explosive hazard (MPPEH) in accordance with DoD 4160.21-M. Ensure that MPPEH management supports operational readiness and mission requirements and complies with explosives safety standards and environmental requirements.

5.4.4.2. Establish guidelines for the use of controlled burns on operational ranges to make operational ranges safe for range clearance. Controlled burns shall not be used as a range clearance method.

5.4.4.3. Ensure issues related to range clearance that affect or have the potential to affect neighboring communities are addressed in appropriate public forums.

5.4.4.4. Before changing the use of an operational range area, conduct appropriate range clearance consistent with the proposed use.

## 6. PROCEDURES

Operational range management procedures will:

6.1. Allow access to operational ranges for range maintenance, modernization, training, or testing operations only if adequate explosives safety precautions are taken.

6.2. Require appropriate range clearance of used or fired military munitions, munitions debris, and range-related debris that may impair or inhibit the continued use of an operational range.

6.3. Consider future land use if all or a portion of an operational range has a finite end-use date (e.g., as stipulated in a lease agreement, land withdrawal language, or other land use agreement).

6.4. Comply with this Instruction with respect to operational ranges that are located on property that a DoD Component uses pursuant to an agreement (e.g., lease) with a non-DoD property owner, subject to the terms and conditions of that agreement. DoD Components shall ensure that such agreements entered into or modified after the date of this Instruction are consistent with this Instruction.

6.5. Provide that when a DoD Component other than the DoD Component exercising real property accountability operates all or a portion of an operational range, responsibility for compliance with this Instruction is assigned to the operating DoD Component, unless the two parties agree otherwise.

6.6. Provide that all non-DoD users of operational ranges enter into a use agreement, except in cases where the local range commander determines this to be unnecessary or detrimental to DoD interests. Such determinations shall be documented and maintained locally. Each use agreement should specifically address financial responsibility for range clearance and operational range cleanup costs. Use agreements shall also consider pre-existing range debris and military munitions accumulation from operational range activities.

6.7. Ensure that use agreements existing on this Instruction's publication date are re-negotiated at the earliest opportunity to conform to this Instruction, and that use agreements entered into or modified after the date of this Instruction are fully consistent with this Instruction and other applicable guidance.

6.8. Ensure that all non-DoD users comply with this Instruction, whether subject to the terms and conditions of a use agreement or not.

6.9. For operational ranges outside the United States, comply with applicable DoD policy (including references (a) and (c)) and with all international agreements and use agreements. Where these conflict, the more stringent applicable requirement shall be followed.

## 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Instruction is effective immediately.



**David S. C. Chu**  
**Under Secretary of Defense**  
**(Personnel and Readiness)**