

# RANGE SAFETY

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS AND FORT BRAGG  
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AFZA-CG

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MEMORANDUM FOR Commanders and Leaders of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg

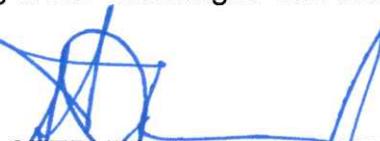
SUBJECT: Range Training Fatality

## FACTS:

- In late September 2015 Soldiers conducted an M4 and M249 qualification range.
- One of the Soldiers, an experienced infantryman with a nine-month combat deployment to Afghanistan, departed the qualification range with several 5.56 Enhanced Performance Rounds in a magazine.
- The Soldier stored the magazine in his kit in his barracks room and claims he was unaware of the presence of the live ammunition.
- Neither the Soldier nor any of his leaders conducted a brass and ammo check prior to departing the qualification range. In fact, the Soldier stated that the last time he had witnessed a brass and ammo check was at BCT.
- Twelve days later, the Soldier participated in a Team Blank Fire training event. That morning, the Soldier received 180 blank rounds and loaded six of his seven magazines. The one magazine he did not load with blank ammunition contained the live ammunition from the qualification range.
- Neither the Soldier nor any of his leaders conducted a brass and ammo check prior to the BFX.
- During the BFX the Soldier unintentionally shot and killed a fellow Soldier with the live rounds he improperly possessed.

## LESSONS LEARNED:

- Leaders at all levels must ensure that basic tasks necessary for safe range operations are executed properly on every range.
- Leaders must increase oversight and supervision of standards, ammunition accountability, and risk management whenever live ammunition is involved.
- Conducting proper brass and ammo inspections after or before every range prevents Soldiers from leaving or entering training areas and ranges with live ammunition.

  
STEPHEN J. TOWNSEND  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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