



**Australian Government**

# **DEFCA414B Operate direct fire support weapon systems on operations**

**Release: 2**

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## Modification History

Release	TP Version	Comments
2	DEF12 V2	Unit descriptor updated. Application added. Minor Range Statement change. Evidence Guide updated.
1	DEF12 V1	Release

## Unit Descriptor

This unit covers the competency required to safely handle, aim, fire, and maintain direct fire support weapon systems (such as the 84 mm Carl Gustaf) designed to destroy targets and provide battlefield effects. The weapon system is carried and operated by a team.

All members of the team must be thoroughly familiar with target identification, the characteristics and capabilities of the weapon system and be competent in the application of fire in an operational environment.

The team will usually operate under direct Orders for Opening Fire and in accordance with the Rules of Engagement.

No licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication. In a Defence context, this means that there is no civilian need to hold this unit in order to meet licensing, legislative, regulatory or certification requirements.

## Application of the Unit

This competency was developed for combat arms personnel required to safely handle, aim, fire, and maintain direct fire support weapon systems designed to destroy targets and provide battlefield effects on operations in a deployed operational environment but is applicable to any individual in this field of work.

Typically, operators work as part of a team under direct supervision applying Orders for Opening Fire and in accordance with the Rules of Engagement, use discretion and judgement, and take responsibility for the quality of their outputs. All activities are carried out in accordance with relevant organisational policies and procedures.

## Licensing/Regulatory Information

Not applicable.

## Pre-Requisites

Not applicable.

## Employability Skills Information

This unit contains employability skills.

## Elements and Performance Criteria Pre-Content

Elements describe the essential outcomes of a Unit of Competency.

Performance Criteria describe the required performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element. Where *bold italicised* text is used, further information is detailed in the Range Statement. Assessment of performance is to be consistent with the Evidence Guide.

## Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT	PERFORMANCE CRITERIA
<p><b>1. Handle a direct fire support system</b></p>	<p>1.1 Weapon is safely handled and carried in accordance with <i>standard procedures</i>.</p> <p>1.2 <i>Ammunition</i> is identified, selected and safely handled in accordance with standard procedures.</p> <p>1.3 <i>Weapon drills</i> are conducted in accordance with standard procedures.</p> <p>1.4 <i>Fire positions</i> are adopted as required by environment and threat.</p> <p>1.5 Work health and safety (WHS) requirements and recognised safety precautions are applied throughout the operation.</p> <p>1.6 Ammunition is secured in accordance with standard procedures.</p>
<p><b>2. Apply fire with a direct fire support system</b></p>	<p>2.1 <i>Weapon sighting systems</i> and <i>associated equipment</i> are employed as required by the <i>operational environment</i> and in accordance with standard procedures.</p> <p>2.2 Targets are <i>identified</i> and <i>engaged</i> in accordance with standard procedures.</p>
<p><b>3. Maintain and stow a direct fire support system</b></p>	<p>3.1 Operator maintenance is conducted in accordance with standard procedures.</p> <p>3.2 <i>Defects</i> are identified and rectified within limits of authority or reported to supervisor.</p> <p>3.3 Documentation is completed in accordance with standard procedures.</p>

## Required Skills and Knowledge

This describes the essential skills and knowledge and their level, required for this unit.

### Required Skills

- achieve the required effects of fire
- apply battlecraft aggressively
- apply fieldcraft skills
- apply recognised safety precautions
- hand eye coordination
- handle weapon safely in an operational environment
- manual dexterity
- use binoculars
- work in a team

### Required Knowledge

- battlecraft
- characteristics, technical capabilities, effects, employment and limitations of the weapon
- characteristics, technical capabilities of the system
- fieldcraft
- fire control orders
- WHS requirements
- safety precautions associated with the equipment
- target identification
- team work
- weapon drills

## Evidence Guide

### Critical aspects for assessment and evidence required to demonstrate competency in this unit

Assessment must confirm the ability to:

- carry out all weapon drills as listed in the Range Statement
- accurately identify the target type
- fire the weapon using high explosive ammunition
- achieve the desired effect - destruction obscuration, illumination fire from any supported and unsupported position
- recognise limit of own authority

### Consistency in performance

Competency should be demonstrated over time and across a range of simulated or actual workplace situations a range of actual live firing contexts.

### Context of and specific resources for assessment

#### Context of assessment

Competency should be assessed in the workplace or in a simulated workplace environment Competency should be assessed using live ammunition.

#### Specific resources for assessment

Access to a direct fire support system, ammunition and a live firing range.

## Range Statement

The Range Statement relates to the Unit of Competency as a whole. It allows for different work environments and situations that may affect performance. ***Bold italicised*** wording in the Performance Criteria is detailed below.

- Standard procedures*** may include:
- Australian Standards
  - defence instructions
  - doctrinal pamphlets
  - job guides, other publications
  - manufacturers' handbooks, industry specifications and technical instructions
  - WHS regulations
  - organisational policies and procedures
  - procedure manuals
  - relevant local government by-laws
  - relevant state/territory or federal legislation
  - routine orders
  - standing operating procedures
  - standing orders
  - written and verbal orders
- Ammunition*** may include:
- high explosive
  - high explosive anti tank
  - high explosive dual purpose
  - illumination
  - practice
  - rocket assist
  - smoke
  - sub calibre
  - tracer
- Weapon drills*** must include:
- checking clearances
  - degrees of weapon readiness
  - immediate action and misfire
  - safety precautions
  - stripping and assembling
- Fire positions*** may include:
- supported or unsupported
  - prone
  - standing
  - kneeling
  - sitting
  - squatting
- Weapon sighting systems*** may include:
- flare
  - folding leaf

***Associated equipment*** may include:

- night sights
- telescopic optical
- thermal/infra-red
- bipod
- bore sight equipment
- cleaning equipment
- complete equipment schedule (CES)
- sling
- tripod

***Identification of the target*** must include:

- differentiation between friend or foe
- vehicle type identification:
  - main battle tanks and other armoured vehicles
  - light armed vehicles
  - light skin vehicles

***Engagement of the target*** may include:

- destruction
- illumination
- neutralisation
- obscuration

***Defects*** may include:

- broken cocking rod
- broken firing pin
- damaged cartridge guide
- damaged sighting system
- faulty extension system
- faulty firing mechanism

## **Unit Sector(s)**

Not applicable.