



Australian Government

DEFCA412B Operate a mortar

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 operate a mortar, including the 81mm mortar, in the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

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 operate mortar equipment in a deployed operational environment but is applicable to any individual in this field of work.

The individual will be under direct supervision, usually as part of a team and will usually operate under direct Orders for Opening Fire and in accordance with the Rules of Engagement.

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
1. Position the weapon	1.1 Weapon position is prepared for firing in accordance with standard procedures. 1.2 Ancillary equipment is prepared for use and operated as required or directed. 1.3 Weapon is prepared for firing in accordance with standard procedures. 1.4 Work health and safety (WHS) requirements and recognised safety precautions are applied throughout the operation.
2. Aim the weapon	2.1 Sighting equipment is prepared for use and operated as required or directed. 2.2 Firing data is calculated both manually and electronically, and communicated to supervisor. 2.3 Mortar is aimed and adjusted as directed in accordance with standard procedures.
3. Fire the mortar	3.1 Ammunition is handled and prepared under supervision and in accordance with standard procedures. 3.2 Ammunition is visually inspected and defects are reported to supervisor. 3.3 Weapon drills are conducted in accordance with standard procedures. 3.4 Mortar is fired in an operational environment and in accordance with orders.
4. Maintain and stow the mortar	4.1 Weapon and associated equipment are cleaned and serviced as required. 4.2 Defects are identified and rectified within limits of authority or reported to supervisor. 4.3 Documentation is completed in accordance with standard procedures. 4.4 Mortar is secured in accordance with standard procedures.

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
- apply fieldcraft
- apply recognised safety precautions
- handle weapons safely in an operational environment
- interpret fire control orders

Required Knowledge

- battlecraft
- characteristics, technical capabilities, effects, employment and limitations of mortars and ammunition
- fieldcraft
- WHS requirements
- recognised safety precautions
- target indication procedure
- 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
- work as part of a team
- fire the weapon using, as a minimum, high explosive ammunition
- complete a variety of firing data calculations as listed in the Range Statement

Consistency in performance

Competency should be demonstrated over time and across a range of simulated or actual workplace situations conducting live firing missions by day and night using a variety of ammunition types.

Context of and specific resources for assessment

Context of assessment

Competency should be assessed in the workplace or in a simulated workplace environment using live ammunition in a simulated operational threat environment. The context of assessment would usually be simulated due to the nature of this high risk environment.

Specific resources for assessment

Access to a mortar, 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

Ancillary equipment may include:

- aiming devices
- complete equipment schedule (CES)
- night aiming devices
- sighting systems

Firing data may include:

- circular/rectangular sheath
- coverage
- datum
- grids
- intersection
- linear
- link shooting
- location
- polar
- proving the belt
- shift

Ammunition may include:

- anti-tank
- high explosive (he)
- illumination
- improved conventional munitions
- precision guided munitions
- smoke
- white phosphorus

Ammunition defects
may include:

- and may be used with fuse types:
- delay
- proximity
- near surface burst super quick (point detonating/graze)
- time
- corrosion
- cracks
- damaged charge bags
- damaged packaging
- rust
- weeping

Weapon drills must
include:

- action
- adjustment of scales
- cease fire
- firing
- misfire
- parallel
- position aiming posts

Serviced may
include:

- calibrating sights
- cleaning
- lubricating
- replacing broken firing pin

Unit Sector(s)

Not applicable.