

CAMP SMITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
ANNEX 2A – RAPPEL TOWER SOP
JULY 2009

REFERENCE: TC 21-24 (Rappelling)

OBJECTIVE:

The Camp Smith Rappel Tower is a training facility for units to practice and enhance individual and collective skills needed to conduct rappel operations from static locations as well as rotary wing aircraft.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. A unit must have the following on site in order to conduct training in the Rappel Tower complex:
 - a. Certified OIC (Air Assault/Ranger)
 - b. Certified Rappel Master
 - c. One Rappel Lane NCO (RSO) per Rappel station (Air Assault/Ranger)
 - d. One Belayer for each rope station
 - e. Two military rappel ropes for each rope station.
 - f. Gloves and helmets.
 - g. Qualified medic (68W) with aid bag and litter, backboard and neck collar
 - h. A dedicated evacuation vehicle capable of carrying a litter with driver
 - i. Communications equipment for continuous communication with range control
2. Units are responsible for cleaning and clearing of all facilities or buildings utilized for training. OIC should do walk thru with Range Control staff member prior to start of training exercise to determine acceptable standards during the turn-in process.
3. A unit must have the following on file at Range Control 10 days prior to execution in order to conduct training in the Rappel Tower complex:
 - a. Memorandum from O-5 or above or civilian equivalent certifying the Rappel OIC, and Rappel Master/Instructor
 - b. Documented proof of medical qualifications. (68W or EMT)

CAMP SMITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
ANNEX 2A – RAPPEL TOWER SOP
JULY 2009

- c. DA Form 7566, Composite Risk Management Worksheet (daily requirement)
- d. Waiver of liability document for each participant (non-military only)
- e. Training plan

4. Personnel Qualifications and Duties

a. Officer in Charge – OIC must be an SFC or above and Air Assault or Ranger qualified or an individual trained in rappel operations on the government agency or civilian side. Duties and responsibilities as per TC 21-24. In addition, the OIC will be responsible for completing a risk assessment and ensuring risk management guidelines are followed. It is also the responsibility of the OIC to ensure that prior to training, a rappel operations safety brief is read to all personnel participating in training. OIC will not perform the duties of the rappel master/instructor.

b. Rappel master/instructor – Rappel Master refers to Army Rappel Master certified personnel specifically. These individuals will adhere to the standards set forth in TC 21-24. All military organizations operating the Rappel Tower facility will have at least one Rappel Master certified personnel on site at all times. No other rappel certifications military or civilian will be accepted for DOD users. Rappel instructors are individuals holding certificates from various civilian or law enforcement rappel instructor schools. A copy of the certificate must be provided to validate instructor status. All civilian and law enforcement organizations operating the rappel tower or rappel site will have at least one instructor to perform rappelling operations. Prudent planning practices should include a backup Rappel Master certified individual to prevent training disruptions.

c. Rappel Lane NCO/RSO – Must be an Air Assault or Ranger SGT (E-5) or above qualified personnel. Must have a refresher briefing on belay and belay safety procedures from the Rappel Master prior to the start of training.

d. Belay personnel – There will be an individual performing belay duties on each rope at all times while rappel training is being conducted. All belay personnel will receive training in belay procedures prior to performing belay duties.

e. Medic – There will be at least one Army Medic (68W), or civilian EMT with current certification on file at Range Control, on site at all times. Medic will have a minimum of a backboard, neck collar and dedicated evacuation vehicle.

CAMP SMITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
ANNEX 2A – RAPPEL TOWER SOP
JULY 2009

SAFETY:

1. General.
 - a. All loose clothing and equipment will be secured
 - b. Rappel seat will be tied by the individual and checked by a Rappel Master prior to conducting a rappel.
 - c. Rappellers will climb the tower only when instructed to do so.
 - d. Personnel will stay back from the edge of the tower until told to move to the rappel point by the Rappel Master.
 - e. No one will be allowed within three feet of the edge of the tower without being secured to the tower unless moving to the hookup point.
 - f. Rappel Masters will wear a safety line or some restraint system secured to an anchor point while on the Rappel Tower.
 - g. There will be a minimum of one recovery line per two rappel ropes, additional safety lines will be kept on top of the tower for possum rappeller recovery.
 - h. No one will be allowed to lean or sit on the railings located on top of the Rappel Tower.
 - i. Heavy duty gloves are required for all Rappel Tower training. All rappellers will wear gloves
 - j. While on the tower, the rappeller will maintain eye contact with the rappel master at all times and take all commands from the rappel master.
 - k. Both rappeller and rappel master will ensure that belay personnel are present and ready at the base of the rappel tower.
 - l. Running is prohibited on the tower.
 - m. Eating and smoking is prohibited on or near the tower
2. Rotary Wing Aircraft. Authorized helicopter landings for rappel operations allowed on parade field only. Any other planned landings must be cleared and approved by Range Control.
 - a. When approaching or leaving aircraft, always keep the helmet chinstrap fastened.

CAMP SMITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
ANNEX 2A – RAPPEL TOWER SOP
JULY 2009

- b. Approach or leave the aircraft in a crouching position.
 - c. Approach and leave the aircraft as briefed by the aircrew prior to operations and always be aware of the tail rotor.
 - d. Do not touch any exterior or moving part of any aircraft.
 - e. Keep LZs and PZs clear of all loose articles such as clothing, ponchos, MRE wrappers, etc.
 - f. Rappel Master is in command of all soldiers in the aircraft for rappelling operations.
 - g. In the advent of a forced landing in a UH-60 or CH-47, assume the crash position as briefed by the aircrew. No one will exit any aircraft until the main rotor has completely stopped and all debris has stopped falling unless the aircraft is on fire. The pilots and crew will direct emergency evacuation of the aircraft.
 - h. All personnel will wear earplugs when working in or around aircraft.
3. Medical
- a. Medical assistance is required to be on site prior to conducting rappel operations. When medical personnel leave the site, all training will cease until coverage is restored.
 - b. For medical emergencies, all units/organizations will follow the Camp Smith Medical Emergency SOP. The SOP is located in Chapter 5 (Safety) of this publication.
4. Sanitation. No urinating, defecating or spitting will be allowed in any Rappel Tower facilities. Latrines are located nearby.

SCHEDULING:

- 1. All requests to utilize Rappel Tower facilities will be done utilizing RFMSS. Units/organizations will submit request for use of Rappel Tower facilities in the same manner as requesting ranges or any other training facilities to the Camp Smith RFMSS Operator.
- 2. The primary users of the Rappel Tower facility will be military organizations. New York Army National Guard units will have first priority and all other military units will be scheduled on a first come first serve basis.

CAMP SMITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
ANNEX 2A – RAPPEL TOWER SOP
JULY 2009

3. The Rappel Tower facility may also be utilized by non-military organizations to conduct law enforcement and other related training provided that it does not interfere with military training in and/or around that location.
4. Non-military organizations may utilize the Rappel Tower facility only if their current non-military use agreement states the Rappel Tower facility as part their lease agreement with New York State Division of Military and Naval Affairs (DMNA).
5. After scheduling is approved and confirmed, units should coordinate with Range Control staff for site brief and issue of key(s).
6. Units need to plan on clearing the Rappel Tower facilities during daylight on the last day they are scheduled for the site. Coordinate with Range Control staff for clearance requirements and time.

CAMP SMITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
ANNEX 2B – URBAN ASSAULT COURSE (UAC) 1 SOP
JULY 2009

REFERENCE: TC 90-1 (Training for Urban Operations)

OBJECTIVE:

The Urban Assault Course (UAC) 1 provides a training area in which units may conduct individual and collective training needed to fight and defeat an enemy in an urban environment. The UAC 1 complex supports non-live fire training of units from Platoon thru Company level, BLANK-FIRE ONLY.

GENERAL:

a. The Urban Assault Course (UAC) 1 complex consists of six one-story buildings (1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325), one two-story building (1326), as well as several abandoned automobiles, connex containers and sheds (see Appendix 1 for site map and general orientation of facilities).

b. The six one story buildings and one two story building, as well as several abandoned vehicles will enable the UAC 1 facility to provide Commanders the flexibility to develop versatile and realistic training scenarios.

c. All units/organizations must display a red flag on the flagpole located vicinity of the Bald Spot to signal occupation of any facility inside the UAC 1 complex.

d. A LZ PZ is centrally located to the UAC 1 complex. The LZ PZ can support two UH-60s at a time or one CH- 47 and a landing request, as part of any training, must be coordinated and approved by Range Control well in advance of the actual training period.

REQUIREMENTS:

a. A unit must have the following on site in order to conduct training in the Urban Assault Course (UAC) 1 facilities:

- (1) Command certified range OIC and RSO (if firing blanks)
- (2) Qualified medic/CLS (with aid bag and litter)
- (3) A dedicated evacuation vehicle with driver equipped with and capable of carrying a litter.
- (4) Communications assets capable of continuous communication with Range Control.

CAMP SMITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
ANNEX 2B – URBAN ASSAULT COURSE (UAC) 1 SOP
JULY 2009

b. Units are responsible for cleaning/clearing all buildings utilized for training. OIC should conduct a walk-through with Range Control staff prior to start of training exercise to determine acceptable standards during the turn-in process.

c. No bivouac is allowed within UAC 1 facilities. Units desiring to operate tactical bivouac operations should coordinate with Range Control for availability of adjacent training areas.

d. During training, administrative vehicle movement will be confined to the gravel road network. Designated parking must be coordinated and approved by Range Control.

e. All administrative vehicles will be parked outside UAC 1 facilities during tactical operations.

f. Door breach tactics are authorized only in locations designated by Range Control. Contact Range Control for details and updates.

g. No fighting positions or trenches will be dug.

SAFETY:

a. General

(1) Safety procedures for units using UAC 1 facilities allow for a safe but realistic training environment. OICs will give a safety orientation with a brief explanation of the purpose of each exercise to all personnel prior to start of any UAC training exercises.

(2) No pushing, shoving or horseplay will be permitted in UAC 1 facilities. No physical contact with the opposing forces (OPFOR) will occur.

(3) No one is allowed on the rooftop of any UAC 1 facility.

(4) Rappelling and use of grappling hooks is not authorized.

(5) No blank ammunition will be fired unless an authorized blank adapter is attached to the weapon. Blank fire allowed only during authorized range fire hours (0730 to 2100 hours).

CAMP SMITH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES
ANNEX 2B – URBAN ASSAULT COURSE (UAC) 1 SOP
JULY 2009

(6) When involved in close combat, avoid firing weapons directly at personnel. If practice grenades are used, they will be rolled, not thrown.

(7) Any derelict vehicles placed inside or adjacent to UAC 1 facilities, as part of the training environment will not be moved. Derelict vehicles will not be dismantled during training. Do not cut or flatten vehicle tires. Trash will not be thrown into any vehicles onsite. Do not throw pyrotechnics inside vehicle interiors.

(8) Personnel conducting training must wear KEVLAR or Safety Helmets with chinstraps fastened.

(9) Personnel conducting training should be aware of possible Bee infestations. Contact Range Control for extermination guidance. Small animals and rodents may be found in and around the open buildings of UAC 1 facilities. Any concerns should be addressed with Range Control staff. Report suspected rabid animals to Range Control immediately and avoid all contact.

(10) Use of ladders or similar devices must be checked by OIC to ensure they are safe and will accommodate the weight of a combat loaded soldier.

(11) For medical emergencies, all units/organizations will follow the procedures outlined in Annex 5A (Medical Emergency SOP) of the Camp Smith Policies and Procedures publication.

(12) If medical support has been committed to an evacuation, no hazardous training activities will be resumed until the medical aid person, medical equipment, and evacuation vehicle have returned to the area and are available for standby duty.

b. Pyrotechnics

(1) Artillery and grenade simulators are not authorized inside buildings. Whistling booby trap devices may be utilized inside UAC 1 facilities with Range Control approval and fire extinguishers on site.

(2) Smoke grenades and CS gas will not be thrown into UAC 1 buildings for any reason during training. Smoke grenades may be utilized outside the UAC 1 buildings with approval from Range Control and fire extinguishers on site.

(3) Booby traps will be placed below waist level.

(4) Personnel traveling through smoke will wear protective masks.

c. Marking Ammunition Training