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512th Airlift Wing, Dover Air Force Base, Del.

New Air Force rifle qualification course effective now



Photo by Staff Sgt. Airman 1st Class Dillon Davis

Maj. Gerald Stevenson, the 52nd Comptroller Squadron commander, moves forward to engage a target during the new weapons qualification course at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, Oct. 13. Air Force leaders modernized the rifle qualification course by adding movement while engaging targets to better train and equip Airmen.

General explains changes to mortuary disposal process

As soon as officials at the Air Force Port Mortuary at Dover Air Force Base, Del., realized cremated and incinerated service member remains were being disposed of in a landfill, they changed the process, Lt. Gen. Darrell D. Jones said Dec. 8.

Jones, the Air Force's deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, discussed with Pentagon reporters the disposition of subsequently unidentified remains. Jones said Air Force leaders are sorry if the process has caused families any further anguish.

Tech. Sgt. Joseph Sanchez
37th Training Support Squadron

Airmen taking the new Air Force Rifle Qualification Course are finding themselves learning more than just basic marksmanship skills.

Changes requiring more intensive weapons training were published in September by the Air Force Security Center and officially took effect Dec. 1.

"Our combatant commanders identified over the last 10 years that we needed to move away from the Cold War-era style of qualification and give our Airmen quality training," said Master Sgt. Scott Brown, the U.S. Air Forces in Europe combat arms program manager at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. "More and more Airmen are actively engaging the enemy down range, and they need to have a higher standard of weapons training."

Although there are numerous differences between the new and the old courses, the

most significant change is the emphasis on combat engagement and developing shooter survivability skills.

The new course incorporates target acquisition, threat discrimination, multiple-threat engagement, surviving weapon malfunction and stoppages.

The major changes in the qualification course include more stringent time constraints, required wear of a combat helmet and body armor, movement during fire, and different firing tactics, said Staff Sgt. Marc Rodriguez, a 52nd Security Forces Squadron combat arms instructor at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany.

Rodriguez said that during the move and shoot portion, Airmen will have seconds to advance to the firing line, shoot while standing, crouch, and shoot while kneeling.

"There are time constraints on all the firing positions to

increase your heart rate and make you nervous," said Tech. Sgt. Robert Duerr, a 52nd SFS combat arms instructor. "At no point downrange will you be shooting at a stationary, small black target with a circle on it. This training will definitely make the individual more competent and confident in their handling of the weapon."

As a result of the training changes, the number of rounds fired and the additional qualification stages increase the length of classroom training as well as time on the range. Bases that have already used the new curriculum have found the course now takes 10 to 12 hours to complete.

Growing pains are expected with the new course, Duerr said. However, the training is intended to hone Airmen's weapons skills to provide a better equipped and trained warfighter to combatant commanders downrange.

For full article, please visit <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123282459>. (Staff Sgt. Darryl Knee, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs contributed to story.)

To read the full article, please visit <https://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123282875>. (Courtesy Air Force News Service.)

Wing announces winners

Congratulations to the following 512th Airlift Wing quarterly award winners for the fourth quarter: Airman of the Quarter - Senior Airman Paul Weston, 512th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron; NCO of the Quarter - Staff Sgt. Joann Colon, 512th Logistics Readiness Squadron; Senior NCO of the Quarter - Master Sgt. David Jackson, 512th LRS; and, Civilian of the Quarter - Willie Hairston, 512th Force Support Squadron.

Air Force Safety Center safe holiday season tips:

- Manage your stress - plan head, be realistic and take a break if you need it;
- Winter driving - use sound risk-management practices if you are traveling and evaluate the hazards like weather, driving at night or driving long distances in a short amount of time;
- Winter sports - never ski or snowboard alone, wear protective gear, know your abilities and stay hydrated;
- Responsible drinking - don't drink and drive; and
- Prevent complacency - get plenty of rest, don't rush through tasks and decrease your stress.