

CHAPTER 3

ADF CADETS DEFENCE WEAPONS

INTRODUCTION

3.3.1 ADF Cadets is a youth development program that instils Defence's values and inculcates a sense of service to the community in youth. It is conducted in a military like environment. Weapons are an intrinsic part of military life and, as such, activities involving the use of weapons are critical to providing a military like experience for cadets.

3.3.2 All Defence weapons activities must have the ADF Cadets participant's best interests (including their physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing) as the primary consideration, and must comply with Work Health and Safety policy and Defence Youth Safety Framework ([Part 1](#)).

POLICY INTENT

3.3.3 This policy provides direction and guidance on the use of Defence weapons, associated equipment and ammunition to ADF Cadets. This policy is to be read in conjunction with the ADF Cadets Military-Like Activities policy (Section 2, Chapter 9), the Defence Security Principles Framework (DSPF), and the [Defence Training Area Management Manual \(DTAMM\)](#) and has been developed in accordance with Australia's commitment to the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and the [Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict](#). This policy excludes Cadet Firearms, which are covered in Section 3, Chapter 5.

DEFINITION OF A DEFENCE WEAPON

3.3.4 [DSPF](#) Control 78.1 *Weapons Security*, defines a Defence weapon as 'a weapon owned by Defence to meet the operational, training and support requirements of the Permanent and Reserve members of the ADF'. For the purposes of differentiating storage and transportation security requirements, Defence weapons are subcategorised into:

- a. **Small arms Defence weapons.** Defence weapons that are:
 - (1) only capable of firing a round smaller than 20 millimetres calibre, regardless of being either man-portable or platform-mounted
 - (2) which are of a calibre greater than 20 millimetres, but are man-portable, such as section-level grenade launchers and rocket launchers

- b. **Large Defence Weapons.** Defence weapons which can fire a round of 20 millimetre calibre or greater and are not considered man-portable
- c. **Superseded Defence Weapons.** Defence weapons that are no longer managed as a part of the operational inventory but are retained by Defence for any purpose
- d. **Replica Defence Weapons.** Inert instruments made to replicate the size, weight and/or shape of a live firing Defence weapon or its component parts. Replica weapons include red guns, instruction weapons and instructional replicas
- e. **Controlled parts.** Defence weapon components and sub-assemblies that require the same security measures as a complete Defence weapon. They are those parts of weapons that are the most difficult to manufacture and substitute, and without which the weapon is inoperable
- f. **Edged Defence Weapons.** Edged implements used for making or repelling an attack and includes combat knives and bayonets, but does not include ceremonial swords and ceremonial lances¹
- g. **Innocuous Defence Weapons.** Defence weapons that have been rendered incapable of discharging a projectile to the satisfaction of engineering standards within Defence (for further information, see [DSPF Control 78.1](#) paragraph 30 *Rendering Weapons Innocuous*). Innocuous Defence weapons include Weapon Training Simulation System (WTSS) weapons, some sectionalised training aids and any Defence weapons in the subcategories above which have been rendered innocuous
- h. **Captured Weapons.** Weapons captured or seized on operations that fall within one or more of the subcategories above are to be treated as Defence weapons for the purposes of storage, transportation and disposal.

USE OF DEFENCE WEAPONS, ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT AND AMMUNITION BY ADF CADETS

3.3.5 ADF cadets must ensure access to and use of Defence weapons and ammunition by ADF Cadets participants is in accordance with Defence policy and procedures. All requests for Defence weapons are to be in accordance with Defence policy and ADF Cadets procedures.

3.3.6 ADF Cadets must ensure ammunition is requested, handled and acquitted in accordance with Defence policy and ADF Cadets procedures.

¹ Ceremonial bayonets for approved AAC ceremonial activities are authorised to be fitted to F88i AUSTEYRS.

3.3.7 ADF Cadets must ensure Defence weapons are stored and transported in accordance with DSPF Principle 78 and in accordance with the provisions of Defence Explosive Ordnance Publications 101 (eDEOP 101) for the management and safety of explosive ordnance activities.

3.3.8 ADF Cadets must ensure ADF Cadets Adults complete the weapons and explosive ordnance training courses if they are handling and/or transporting bulk weapons and/or handling bulk ammunition.

3.3.9 ADF Cadets must ensure activities involving the live firing of Defence weapons by ADF Cadets participants must only be conducted by ADF members who are:

- a. qualified and permitted to conduct Defence weapons activities in accordance with Defence policy and relevant Cadet organisation procedures
- b. currently qualified to use the weapon in accordance with their parent Service's requirements.

3.3.10 ADF Cadets must ensure range practices comply with the requirements of:

- a. LWP-G 7-3-0 ADF Range Orders (General)
- b. LWP-G 7-3-1 ADF Range Orders (Dismounted)
- c. LWP-G 7-3-21 Small Arms Range Practices (TBI)
- d. Standing Orders applicable to the range on which the practice is fired as issued by:
 - (1) [Directorate of Operations and Training Area Management](#) for Security and Estate Group-managed ranges and Non-Defence Training Areas (NDTA)
 - (2) Range Control Officers for all other ranges
- e. Authorised ADF handling procedures for the weapon(s) and practice being fired.

3.3.11 ADF Cadets must ensure all innocuous weapons and associated equipment are recorded on an internal database, referred to as the Cadet Firearms Register (FaR). The FaR forms part of the CadetNet information system and records the following information:

- a. the manufacturer, type, serial number, make and model of each innocuous weapon

- b. current facility and a permanent audit trail of all movements and storage of the innocuous weapon
- c. the applicable identifying number of the innocuous weapon.

3.3.12 Privately owned weapons are prohibited from being stowed in ADF Cadets units.

3.3.13 ADF Cadets must ensure innocuous weapons registered on the FaR are audited through monthly assurance stocktakes no later than the last day of each month and are audited at a minimum of bi-annually in accordance with Defence Logistics Manual (DEFLOGMAN).

3.3.14 ADF Cadets must ensure the possession, control, storage, transportation and registration of innocuous weapons and ammunition complies with [DSPF](#) Principle 78. Innocuous weapons registered in the FaR are Commonwealth property pursuant to the requirements of [DSPF](#) Principle 78. ADF Cadets participants are not required, under a law of a State or a Territory, to obtain or hold a licence or other permission to possess, use or transport a registered innocuous weapon for, or during, an approved ADF Cadets activity.²

USE OF DEFENCE WEAPONS MUST BE ON AUTHORISED RANGES

3.3.15 ADF Cadets must ensure ADF Cadets participants only live-fire approved weapons at Defence ranges or non-Defence ranges certified to allow the ammunition being used, which may include:

- a. Defence-approved NDTA (for example, civilian rifle ranges/gun clubs)
- b. Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships, with the approval of the Commanding Officer of the ship.

3.3.16 A civilian range is considered Defence-approved when the requirements specified in the [DTAMM](#) have been met. ADF Cadets must ensure that approved non-Defence ranges are certified and are only used while their Certificate of Range Safety Compliance remains current.

APPROVED ACTIVITIES

3.3.17 ADF Cadets must ensure participation in ADF Cadets activities involving the use of Defence weapons is completely voluntary for all ADF Cadets participants. Participation in an activity that involves the use of Defence weapons is not a

² Cadet Forces Regulation 2013, section 12

prerequisite for involvement in the ADF Cadets program, however there may be individual activities or courses where the use of a Defence weapon is a requirement.

3.3.18 ADF Cadets must ensure that before participating in a Defence weapons activity, a cadet who is under 18 years of age has the written consent of their parent/guardian to participate. Such consent may be given or withdrawn at the time of initial enrolment and/or prior to participating in a particular Defence weapons activity.

3.3.19 A cadet under 18 years of age who is recognised as living independently under applicable State/Territory legislation may, in accordance with ADF Cadets procedures, seek approval from Director General Australian Navy Cadets (DGANC), the Commander Australian Army Cadets (COMD AAC) and the Director General Cadets – Air Force (DGCADETS-AF) or their delegates for exemption from the requirement for parental consent. The cadet may participate if approval is given.

3.3.20 ADF Cadets must ensure ADF Cadets participants are **not permitted to use or fire any Service or other pistol** and may only use the following Defence weapons for Defence-approved live-fire practices:

- a. Family of F88 and EF88 AUSTEYR weapons
- b. Individual and crew served machine guns that do not fire High Explosives (HE) ordnance
- c. other small arms approved for live-firing by DGANC, COMD AAC and DGCADETS-AF.

3.3.21 For ceremonial activities ADF Cadets participants are authorised to use the following Defence weapons, small arms and innocuous Defence weapons small arms:

- a. ANC: CDF-W (Ceremonial Drill Firearm - White) Replica L1A1 SLR and F88i (Innocuous) AUSTEYR³
- b. AAC: F-88 AUSTEYR with blank ammunition and F88i (Innocuous) AUSTEYR with ceremonial bayonets
- c. AAFC: F88i (Innocuous) AUSTEYR, L1A1 SLR Innocuous.

3.3.22 ADF Cadets must ensure the possession, control, storage, transportation and registration of innocuous Defence weapons complies with [DFSP](#) Principle 78. Loss or theft of, or other incidents concerning innocuous Defence weapons, must be reported in accordance with [DSPF](#) Principle 78, [eDEOP 101](#) and ADF Cadets procedures.

3.3.23 Subject to the requirements of this policy and approval from DGANC, COMD AAC and DGCADETS-AF or their delegates, ADF Cadets participants may participate in the following approved activities:

³ The CDF-W Replica L1A1 SLR is the ANC in-service drill rifle until it is replaced by the F88i

- a. **WTSS Practises.** Cadets may use all small arms (including machine guns) approved for ADF Cadets use that have been adapted for WTSS use except for the pistol. Cadets may not participate in any WTSS Computer Generated Imagery scenario, other than the 'falling plate' practice. Cadets are not authorised to use any weapon in the WTSS that simulates a HE nature.
- b. **Familiarisation Activities.** Subject to any additional procedures, ADF Cadets participants may fire Defence weapons, approved for ADF Cadets use, in a familiarisation activity or practice if they:
 - (1) have parental consent (where required) in accordance with this policy
 - (2) display behaviour consistent with the ADF Cadets Code of Conduct (Youth)
 - (3) have completed their initial induction training
 - (4) are fit and able to handle a Defence weapon
 - (5) are under the direct supervision of qualified ADF members in accordance with relevant Defence and ADF Cadets procedures applicable to such activities or practice
 - (6) have completed the minimum training requirements for participation in a familiarisation activity or practice for the weapon, as specified by the relevant cadet organisation procedure.
- c. **Qualification Activities.** Subject to any additional ADF Cadets procedures, ADF Cadets participants may fire Defence weapons approved for ADF cadets use in a qualification shoot if they:
 - (1) have parental consent (where required) in accordance with this policy
 - (2) display behaviour consistent with the ADF Cadets Code of Conduct (Youth)
 - (3) are fit and able to handle a Defence weapon.

3.3.24 ADF Cadets must ensure ADF Cadets participants who are involved in live-fire or WTSS practices do not use targets that are representative of humans or animals.

USE OF SIMILAR WEAPONS OF DEFENCE FORCES OF OTHER NATIONS IN APPROVED INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

3.3.25 ADF Cadets must ensure ADF Cadets Instructors of Cadets (IOC), Officers of Cadets (OOC) and cadets use approved small arms of other nations in international competitions or activities, provided that:

- a. the IOC, OOC or cadet is eligible to use a similar type of weapon under this policy
- b. the Service Chief or their delegate has approved the activity
- c. the IOC, OOC or cadet has been briefed and has displayed, to the satisfaction of a qualified operator of the weapon, a suitable understanding of the safe handling and operation of the weapon before undertaking the activity
- d. in the case of cadets, they have parental consent, or a cadet under 18 years of age, who is recognised as living independently under applicable State/Territory legislation has, in accordance with ADF Cadets procedures, sought approval through their respective cadet organisation, for exemption from the requirement for parental consent and the DGANC, COMD AAC or DGCADETS-AF, as applicable, has given such approval.

RECORDS OF DEFENCE WEAPONS TRAINING

3.3.26 ADF Cadets must ensure that a record of all Defence weapons training completed by ADF Cadets participants forms part of the participant's general ADF Cadets record.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

DGANC, COMD AAC AND DGCADETS-AF

3.3.27 DGANC, COMD AAC and DGCADETS-AF are responsible for:

- a. approving all ADF weapons activities for live-firing by ADF Cadets under this policy
- b. specifying the minimum training requirement for participation in a familiarisation practice or a qualification shoot under this policy
- c. ensuring compliance with applicable publications such as the Defence Training Area (DTA) Range Standing Orders, LWP-G 7-3-0, LWP-G 7-3-1 and Defence weapon procedure publications
- d. use, allocation, storage, transport and registration in FaR of innocuous Defence weapons in accordance with [DSPF](#) Principle 78

RELATED INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

[United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
[Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict](#)

Accountable Officer: Chief of Personnel

Policy Owner: Head Reserve and Cadet Support Division