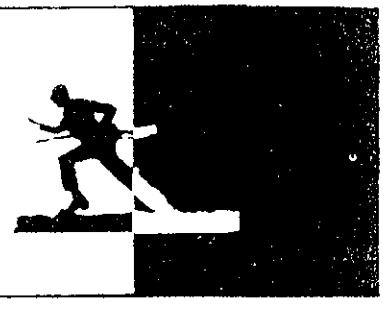
TRAINING NOTES



Bradley Gunnery

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Since the fielding of FM 23-1 (Test), Bradley Fighting Vehicle Gunnery, in December 1983, numerous conferences and meetings, formal and informal, have been conducted concerning Bradley gunnery. The result has been a constructive interchange of thoughts and ideas, many of which have been incorporated into a new FM 23-1, which is planned for distribution in March 1986.

Thanks largely to field experience and the lessons learned from it, and to a close working relationship between the Infantry School and the cavalry trainers at Fort Knox, this greatly improved gunnery manual reflects the evolving development of the Army's Bradley force.

Like other gunnery programs, Bradley gunnery is designed to train soldiers to combat proficiency and to maintain that proficiency, which is evaluated through skills testing and a series of standardized live fire tables. The training tasks for each of the 12 gunnery tables reinforce skills in a progressive sequence.

The tables can be grouped into two major components: subcaliber and full caliber gunnery (see chart).

Tables I-IV are designed for use on scaled ranges, with minimum cost in ammunition and range overhead. (The more common training devices available are the Brewster and Bradley subcaliber devices.)

These tables reinforce the basic gunnery skills that the crew of the Bradley must master before they can qualify. These first four tables, because they can provide an excellent opportunity for turret cross training within the Bradley squad, should be fired as often as possible.

Table V is fired on a full-scale range at one-half scale targets using the Bradley's coaxially mounted 7.62mm machinegun. This is the first table in which crew training occurs on a moving Bradley. A crew's teamwork — developed during preliminary gunnery training and firing the previous subcaliber tables — is refined as the crew engages stationary and moving targets deployed in tactical arrays.

The full caliber tables, VI-XII, consist of exercises involving stationary and moving Bradleys firing at stationary and moving, single and multiple target arrays. They are conducted during daylight hours and at night.

BFV GUNNERY TABLES

SUBCALIBER	
I	Zero/manipulation/range card.
II	Stationary Bradley—stationary/moving targets.
III	Stationary Bradley—adjustment of fire.
IV	Stationary Bradley—stationary/moving tables.
V	Vehicle team subcaliber table.
FULL CALIBER	
VI-A&B*	Vehicle team baseline table.
VII-A&B*	Vehicle team combat table.
VIII-A&B*	Vehicle team qualification table.
VIII-C	Rifle team qualification exercise.
VIII-D	Infantry squad qualification exercise.
IX-A&B*	Scout section combat table.
X-A&B*	Scout section qualification table.
XI-A&B*	Infantry platoon mounted table.
XII-A&B*	Infantry platoon mounted qualification.
XII-C	Infantry platoon dismount element qualification exercise.
XII-D	Infantry platoon qualification exercise.

*A = Day table, B = Night table.

Table VI is the first one that requires a crew to fire the vehicle's 25mm automatic gun and the 7.62mm coaxial machinegun. The table is fired with the vehicle in a stationary position, which permits trainers to coach and instruct a crew on the conduct of full caliber fire.

Tables VII and VIII require Bradley crews to engage realistic tactical target arrays with all the turret-mounted weapons during both day and night from a stationary position and while moving. Table VII is essentially a practice table for Table VIII, which is the first Bradley gunnery qualification table. In it, Bradley crews are evaluated on crew performance and quick, accurate fire.

Both infantry and cavalry scout crews fire these first eight gunnery tables, because they emphasize turret-related skills that are common to both. Tables IX and X, however, are fired only by cavalry scout sections and Tables XI and XII only by infantry platoons. Table IX is the live-fire practice for Table X, which is the scout sections' qualification table; likewise, Table XI is the practice for qualification Table XII for the infantry platoons. Since both scout section and infantry platoon tables are considered tactical gunnery exercises, the scoring has been expanded to include control of fires, reporting procedures, movement techniques, and command and control.

As a result of a Bradley gunnery conference in May of last year, Bradley gunnery was expanded to include exercises specifically designed for the infantry squad and its rifle team as well as for the infantry platoon and its dismount element. These new exercises have been incorporated into Tables VIII and XII.

Tables VIII-C and XII-C, for the first time, give the dismounted Bradley infantry an opportunity to be tested during gunnery exercises. Both tables can be conducted as either live-fire or MILES evaluations on ranges in local or major training areas, either separate from or in conjunction with crew gunnery.

Table VIII-C, which is conducted from prepared defensive positions during daylight, consists of two exercises that require a rifle team to conduct simultaneous engagements at near and far dismounted infantry and vehicle targets. Table XII-C includes similar but more numerous target opportunities. This table is conducted during a daylight offensive scenario and during both day and night defensive scenarios. Both dismounted tables are scored on accuracy, firing position selection, and fire distribution and control.

Tables VIII-D and XII-D combine all of the Bradley infantry training into a squad and platoon qualification. Table VIII-D consists of three daylight exercises — dismounted engagements, firing-port-weapon engagements, and vehicle crew engagements. Table XII-D also offers both day and night dismounted and mounted target engagements. Each of these tables may be fired on a separate range dedicated to these tasks or fired as part of VIII-A for squad qualification and XII-A and -B for platoon qualification. For further flexibility, units also have the option of shooting these as live-fire or as MILES exercises. The two major scoring standards for squad and platoon qualification include fire distribution and control within the dismounted and mounted elements and fire coordination between these same two elements.

Today's Bradley gunnery program tests the combat readiness of Bradley soldiers and their fighting vehicles through tables that are progressive in nature and through demanding, realistic standards.

Bradley gunnery provides a training challenge to all Bradley infantrymen and cavalrymen to train to fight and win.

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Master Gunner Course

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For the past three years, the 12-week Master Gunner Course at Fort Benning has been training master gunners to serve in Bradley battalions and companies — both Active Army and Reserve Component. Recently, as a result of a decision to place them at platoon level as well, the demand for master gunners has grown considerably. And the course has changed in response to changing needs.

What do unit master gunners do? In brief, they are primarily training managers for and system advisors to their commanders. They plan training for Bradley gunnery, forecast ammunition needs, and coordinate necessary training resources to support the gunnery training program.

More specifically, master gunners assist their subordinate units in the conduct of gunnery and crew drills for integrating and certifying newly assigned personnel. They are well versed in the organizational maintenance of the unit's fire control, electrical, and weapon systems, and are prepared to help maintenance personnel troubleshoot these systems, they are especially familiar with turret mainte-