Army OCS Call For Fire Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- **Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,**
- **Improve accuracy and speed,**
- **Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and**
- **Approach the exam with greater confidence.**

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here’s how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don’t just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There’s no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

1. What is the grid to the target given in the polar mission example?

A. NV 4565 3945

B. NV 4564 3944

C. NV 4566 3946

D. NV 4565 3946

2. You estimate the Observer Target Distance to be 2600 meters. What is the OT factor?

A. 2

B. 3

C. 4

D. 5

3. In Polar Call For Fire, what must the FDC know prior to the Call for Fire?

A. Observer's Location

B. Target Elevation

C. Wind Speed

D. Target Movement

4. How is the term SPLASH used?

A. To inform the observer when his round is five seconds from detonation.

B. To indicate the round has impacted on target

C. To signal the end of firing

D. To request another round

5. In the Refine step of End of Mission, deviation must be reduced to within what value and range to within what?

A. Deviation +/- less than 30, range +/- 50

B. Deviation +/- less than 20, range +/- 40

C. Deviation +/- less than 10, range +/- 20

D. Deviation +/- less than 50, range +/- 100

6. What are the four parts of the Message to Observer (MTO)?

- **A. Call sign of unit(s) to fire; Changes to Call for fire; Number of rounds per tube in FFE; Target number**
- **B. Target number; Call sign of unit(s) to fire; Changes to Call for fire; Number of rounds per tube in FFE**
- **C. Changes to Call for fire; Target number; Call sign of unit(s) to fire; Number of rounds per tube in FFE**
- **D. Call sign of unit(s) to fire; Target number; Changes to Call for fire; Number of rounds per tube in FFE**

7. For a grid call, what is the minimum number of digits sent?

- **A. Six digits**
- **B. Four digits**
- **C. Eight digits**
- **D. Ten digits**

8. How do you determined the OT Factor?

- **A. Observer target distance, divided by 1000, expressed to the nearest whole number. If it ends in .5 then express it to the nearest even whole number, if less than 1000 keep as a decimal.**
- **B. Distance in meters divided by 100, rounded to the nearest ten**
- **C. Grid distance only**
- **D. Elevation difference divided by 100**

9. In the Method of Fire and Control, what does 'When Ready' indicate?

- **A. Less control, faster response, standard method of fire and control**
- **B. More control, slower response**
- **C. Immediate mass fire**
- **D. Not used**

10. Why do you send direction to the FDC?

- **A. To orient the FDC to the observer's view of the target**
- **B. To confirm target location in the grid**
- **C. To request a different mission type**
- **D. To update the OT factor**

Answers

1. A
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. A
6. A
7. A
8. A
9. A
10. A

Explanations

1. What is the grid to the target given in the polar mission example?

A. NV 4565 3945

B. NV 4564 3944

C. NV 4566 3946

D. NV 4565 3946

In a polar mission, you identify the target using the Military Grid Reference System: a 100 km grid zone designator followed by easting and northing within that zone. The polar example specifies the target's location inside the 100 km NV zone with an easting of 4565 and a northing of 3945. Put together, this gives the grid NV 4565 3945. The other options change one or both of the coordinates, which would place the target in a different 100 m cell within the same NV zone and do not match the target shown in the polar mission example.

2. You estimate the Observer Target Distance to be 2600 meters. What is the OT factor?

A. 2

B. 3

C. 4

D. 5

OT factor is the distance expressed in thousands of meters that the observer has to use for fire direction calculations. To find it, take the observer-target distance and convert it to thousands of meters. 2600 meters equals 2.6 thousand meters. Round to the nearest whole number, which gives 3. So the OT factor is 3. This matters because the plotting and firing data are often scaled by these thousand-meter units, and 2600 meters sits closest to 3,000 meters rather than 2,000, 4,000, or 5,000.

3. In Polar Call For Fire, what must the FDC know prior to the Call for Fire?

A. Observer's Location

B. Target Elevation

C. Wind Speed

D. Target Movement

Knowing the observer's location is essential because polar calls rely on the observer as the reference point. In Polar Call For Fire, the observer reports the target using range and bearing from themselves. The FDC must know exactly where the observer is to convert that relative information into an absolute firing solution on the map, determine the target's grid location, and compute the initial firing data. Without the observer's position, the FDC cannot translate the polar coordinates into where to fire. Wind speed, target elevation, and target movement matter for refinements and corrections after the initial call, but they don't establish the firing solution by themselves. The critical prerequisite to begin the Call For Fire is knowing the observer's location.

4. How is the term SPLASH used?

A. To inform the observer when his round is five seconds from detonation.

B. To indicate the round has impacted on target

C. To signal the end of firing

D. To request another round

SPLASH is a pre-detonation alert used in artillery communications. When a round is fired with a time fuse, the observer uses SPLASH to tell the gun line that the round will detonate about five seconds from the cue, so the observer can watch the burst and assess its effect or coordinate follow-up fire. This timing cue helps with accuracy and safety because it links the observed burst to the intended target window. It isn't a report of impact, a signal to end firing, or a request for another round, which are handled by other terms.

5. In the Refine step of End of Mission, deviation must be reduced to within what value and range to within what?

A. Deviation +/- less than 30, range +/- 50

B. Deviation +/- less than 20, range +/- 40

C. Deviation +/- less than 10, range +/- 20

D. Deviation +/- less than 50, range +/- 100

In the Refine step, you're tightening the fire mission by reducing two key errors: deviation, the horizontal left-right offset, and range, the distance error. The goal is to bring both errors into practical, achievable tolerances so the final fire mission can be executed with confidence. Reducing deviation to within thirty meters and range to within fifty meters provides a realistic target that balance accuracy with battlefield realities. It allows the team to correct the aiming point enough to place rounds in the target area without demanding unrealistically tight control. The other options would push the crew toward either too-tight tolerances that are hard to meet in the field or too-loose tolerances that wouldn't guarantee the round lands where intended. So the specified thresholds represent the appropriate compromise for refining the mission.

6. What are the four parts of the Message to Observer (MTO)?

A. Call sign of unit(s) to fire; Changes to Call for fire; Number of rounds per tube in FFE; Target number

B. Target number; Call sign of unit(s) to fire; Changes to Call for fire; Number of rounds per tube in FFE

C. Changes to Call for fire; Target number; Call sign of unit(s) to fire; Number of rounds per tube in FFE

D. Call sign of unit(s) to fire; Target number; Changes to Call for fire; Number of rounds per tube in FFE

The four elements of a Message to Observer are: the call sign of the unit(s) to fire, changes to the call for fire, the number of rounds per tube in the Final Fire Effect, and the target number. This order lets the observer quickly identify who is firing, note any corrections to the original call for fire, know how many rounds are allocated for the final effect, and then reference the specific target with its number. The call sign establishes attribution and coordination; changes to the call for fire carry any amendments you've made to location, method, or other details; the rounds-per-tube in the Final Fire Effect tells the gun crew how many rounds to prepare; and the target number provides a persistent reference for tracking and confirming the engagement. Placing these elements in this sequence keeps the message concise and unambiguous, which is essential for fast, accurate fire control.

7. For a grid call, what is the minimum number of digits sent?

A. Six digits

B. Four digits

C. Eight digits

D. Ten digits

In a grid call, the target location is conveyed by its easting and northing within the chosen grid zone. You encode these coordinates with digits, using three digits for the easting and three digits for the northing. That six-digit combination pinpoints a 100-meter square within the grid, which is the smallest amount of digits that still gives a usable, precise location for firing data without wasting radio time. Using fewer digits would place the target in a larger 1-kilometer square (less precise), while more digits would increase precision (eight digits for about 10-meter precision, ten digits for about 1-meter), but six digits is the standard minimum for a grid call.

8. How do you determined the OT Factor?

A. Observer target distance, divided by 1000, expressed to the nearest whole number. If it ends in .5 then express it to the nearest even whole number, if less than 1000 keep as a decimal.

B. Distance in meters divided by 100, rounded to the nearest ten

C. Grid distance only

D. Elevation difference divided by 100

The OT factor comes from how far the observer is from the target. You take the observer-to-target distance in meters and divide by 1,000 (to convert to thousands of meters). Then you express that result with a specific rounding rule: if the decimal part is .5, round to the nearest even whole number; otherwise round to the nearest whole number. If the distance is less than 1,000 meters, you keep it as a decimal (since you'd have something like 0.75, not a whole number). Example: distance is 2,350 m → 2.35, which rounds to 2. If distance is 1,500 m → 1.5, which rounds to the nearest even whole number, giving 2. If distance is 900 m → 0.9, keep 0.9. This is why the correct approach uses the observer-target distance divided by 1,000 with that specific rounding, rather than dividing by 100, using grid distance, or using elevation difference.

9. In the Method of Fire and Control, what does 'When Ready' indicate?

A. Less control, faster response, standard method of fire and control

B. More control, slower response

C. Immediate mass fire

D. Not used

In the Method of Fire and Control, "When Ready" means fires will begin as soon as the gun crews are ready, without waiting for additional timing or adjustments from the observer. This trades some control over firing timing for a faster response, using the standard method of fire and control to get rounds moving quickly. It's used when speed is essential and the observer is prioritizing rapid fire over elaborate coordination. The other options describe scenarios with more control or different firing concepts, which is not what "When Ready" implies.

10. Why do you send direction to the FDC?

A. To orient the FDC to the observer's view of the target

B. To confirm target location in the grid

C. To request a different mission type

D. To update the OT factor

The main idea is that you orient the FDC to what you're seeing. By sending direction, you set the FDC's reference to the observer's view of the target, so the FDC can align its azimuth readings with the target's line of sight. This lets the FDC translate your sighted target into the correct firing data (deflection and elevation) and ensures the guns are aimed along the same line you're observing. It isn't about confirming grid coordinates, requesting a different mission type, or updating the OT factor, which are handled through other information or procedures.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

https://armyocscallforfire.examzify.com

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!