Machine Gun Employment Fundamentals Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

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Questions

1. In an attachment support relationship, who typically has tactical control?

A. Company commander

B. Supported unit leader

C. Squad leader

D. Weapons platoon commander

2. Which of the following is a necessary safety measure for gun crews?

A. Allowing free movement around the equipment

B. Using unreliable barrels

C. Securing the tripod appropriately

D. Ignoring overhead obstacles

3. What is the definition of Sustained Rate of Fire?

A. High volume of fire for short bursts

B. Normal rate of fire for the gunner

C. Continuous fire until ammunition runs out

D. Fire at maximum speed with no regard for accuracy

4. Which of the following is NOT a classification of offensive fire?

A. Close supporting fire

B. Flank protection fires

C. Defensive fire

D. Long range fires

5. How are machine guns employed during the consolidation phase?

A. To capture enemy positions

B. To protect unit’s reorganization

C. To advance towards strategic objectives

D. To fortify supply lines

6. In direct support, who is responsible for tactical control of the machine gun section?

A. Supported unit leader

B. Company commander

C. MG section/squad leader

D. Weapons platoon commander

7. What is one effect of the ammo type used when firing a machine gun?

A. It alters the range of the field

B. It can change the path of fire

C. It has no impact on accuracy

D. It determines the type of recoil

8. In the context of deep targets, what fire technique is recommended?

A. Direct fire

B. Enfilade fire

C. Suppressive fire

D. Trailing fire

9. What action is taken when the gunner loses sight of the Assistant Gunner in defilade?

A. Order a cease-fire

B. Call out "Mark!" to record distance

C. Shift fire to another target

D. Move the gun to a new position

10. What is the purpose of the dead space noted in the range card?

A. Indicates areas for retreat

B. Marks safe zones for civilians

C. Identifies areas not reachable by direct fire

D. Shows areas of concealment for soldiers

Answers

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

Explanations

1. In an attachment support relationship, who typically has tactical control?

A. Company commander

B. Supported unit leader

C. Squad leader

D. Weapons platoon commander

In an attachment support relationship, the supported unit leader typically has tactical control because their unit is the one receiving support and is primarily responsible for integrating that support into their operations. This leader understands the specific operational needs and the tactical environment in which their unit is operating, allowing them to effectively coordinate and direct the actions of the supporting assets. This dynamic enables the supported unit to dictate how and when to employ the attached support, ensuring that it aligns with their tactical objectives. The supported unit leader has the requisite situational awareness and is better positioned to optimize the use of resources based on the mission requirements and environmental factors. In contrast, roles like the company commander, squad leader, and weapons platoon commander may influence the overall strategy or provide support resources but do not have the tactical control that the supported unit leader possesses in this specific operational framework. Their responsibilities tend to encompass broader oversight, planning, or management rather than direct tactical execution in the heat of the moment.

2. Which of the following is a necessary safety measure for gun crews?

A. Allowing free movement around the equipment

B. Using unreliable barrels

C. Securing the tripod appropriately

D. Ignoring overhead obstacles

Securing the tripod appropriately is an essential safety measure for gun crews because it helps to ensure stability and control during operations. A well-secured tripod prevents the machine gun from tipping over or moving unexpectedly, which could lead to inaccurate fire or accidental injury to crew members and nearby personnel. Properly securing the tripod additionally allows for consistent engagement with the target and contributes to the overall effectiveness of the machine gun team in combat situations. The other options do not align with necessary safety protocols. Free movement around equipment can lead to unintentional injury or disruption during operations. Utilizing unreliable barrels compromises the weapon's functionality and can result in malfunctions or dangerous backfires. Ignoring overhead obstacles increases the risk of injury from falling objects and makes it unsafe to operate the weapon effectively. Therefore, focusing on securing the tripod is vital for maintaining safety in gun crew operations.

3. What is the definition of Sustained Rate of Fire?

A. High volume of fire for short bursts

B. Normal rate of fire for the gunner

C. Continuous fire until ammunition runs out

D. Fire at maximum speed with no regard for accuracy

The definition of Sustained Rate of Fire is characterized by a specific firing tempo that balances the need for effective fire with the necessity of controlling ammunition use and maintaining the weapon's operational effectiveness. It refers to the normal rate of fire that a gunner can achieve while keeping the weapon in a manageable heat range and ensuring that it maintains accuracy and reliability over longer periods of engagement. This rate allows for consistent shooting that can engage targets effectively without overwhelming the gun or running out of ammunition too quickly. In practice, the sustained rate of fire is typically lower than the maximum rate of fire to prevent overheating and ensure the gunner can accurately place rounds on target, thus supporting the overall mission and tactical objectives. This approach fosters a controlled and deliberate use of firepower, enhancing the effectiveness of the machine gun in various combat scenarios.

4. Which of the following is NOT a classification of offensive fire?

A. Close supporting fire

B. Flank protection fires

C. Defensive fire

D. Long range fires

In the context of machine gun employment and battlefield tactics, offensive fire classifications are strategies and approaches designed to engage the enemy and support maneuver units. The correct answer, which indicates that "defensive fire" is not an offensive fire classification, highlights a key distinction in military operations. Defensive fire refers to actions taken to protect one's own troops and positions against enemy advances, focusing on repelling attacks or safeguarding critical assets. This type of fire is reactive in nature, prioritizing defense rather than aggression or offense. On the other hand, classifications like close supporting fire, flank protection fires, and long-range fires are all associated with offensive operations. Close supporting fire directly assists advancing units in combat situations, while flank protection fires aim to secure the sides of an attacking force against enemy engagement. Long-range fires can be employed to strike targets beyond the immediate battle area, providing the ability to apply pressure on enemy forces and resources proactively. Understanding these classifications is essential for effective planning and execution of fire support in both offensive and defensive scenarios on the battlefield. By distinguishing between offensive and defensive fire, military personnel can better allocate their resources and devise strategies suited to their specific operational goals.

5. How are machine guns employed during the consolidation phase?

A. To capture enemy positions

B. To protect unit’s reorganization

C. To advance towards strategic objectives

D. To fortify supply lines

During the consolidation phase, the primary focus is on stabilizing and reinforcing the gains made during an offensive. Machine guns play a crucial role in this phase primarily by protecting the unit's reorganization. They provide a defensive posture that ensures the safety of troops as they regroup, resupply, and prepare for future actions. By establishing a defensive perimeter with machine guns, units can deter enemy attacks, secure newly captured positions, and allow for essential logistical tasks without the fear of immediate counterattack. This employment of machine guns allows for a smoother transition during the consolidation phase, enabling units to maintain their defensive integrity while preparing for potential movements or further operational tasks. The ability of machine guns to deliver effective fire across a wide area also helps to protect flanking positions and control key terrain features, which is critical for the ongoing security of the unit.

6. In direct support, who is responsible for tactical control of the machine gun section?

A. Supported unit leader

B. Company commander

C. MG section/squad leader

D. Weapons platoon commander

The responsibility for tactical control of the machine gun section in direct support lies with the machine gun section or squad leader. This leader is the one who has the detailed knowledge and training to manage the position and employment of the machine guns effectively. They are responsible for the implementation of the tactical plan in alignment with the supported unit’s objectives and ensuring that the machine guns are used to provide the necessary fire support. The machine gun section leader is tasked with coordinating the gunner’s actions and positioning, which includes selecting optimal firing positions, ensuring effective communication within their section, and making real-time decisions during operations to adapt to changing combat scenarios. This level of control is essential to maximize the effectiveness of the fire support provided by the machine guns in a coordinated effort with other units involved in the operation. In the context of the provided choices, while other leaders may have oversight or broader command responsibilities, the tactical execution and control of the machine gun section's activities directly falls under the section or squad leader's purview.

7. What is one effect of the ammo type used when firing a machine gun?

A. It alters the range of the field

B. It can change the path of fire

C. It has no impact on accuracy

D. It determines the type of recoil

The choice that indicates the effect of ammo type on the path of fire is accurate because different types of ammunition can significantly influence the projectile's trajectory. Factors such as bullet weight, shape, and type (e.g., armor-piercing, hollow-point, or tracer) can lead to varying levels of drop and wind resistance. For example, a lighter bullet might be affected more by wind than a heavier round, causing it to deviate from the intended path. Additionally, certain ammunitions are designed for specific purposes, which can affect how they interact with the environment upon firing. This is essential knowledge for machine gun employment, as understanding these nuances allows operators to adjust their aiming and firing techniques accordingly based on the ammunition being used.

8. In the context of deep targets, what fire technique is recommended?

A. Direct fire

B. Enfilade fire

C. Suppressive fire

D. Trailing fire

In the context of deep targets, enfilade fire is highly effective because it allows the machine gunner to deliver concentrated fire along the length of the target, maximizing the weapon's effectiveness. Enfilade fire occurs when the line of fire is parallel to the longest axis of the enemy's position, making it easier to achieve a higher hit probability on multiple targets. This technique creates a devastating effect, especially against formations or moving troops, as it can cover a wider area with fewer rounds and create confusion and disruption within the enemy ranks. The use of enfilade fire is particularly advantageous when engaging deep targets positioned along a linear path, enabling a more efficient use of ammunition and resources, while increasing the overall impact on enemy movements.

9. What action is taken when the gunner loses sight of the Assistant Gunner in defilade?

A. Order a cease-fire

B. Call out "Mark!" to record distance

C. Shift fire to another target

D. Move the gun to a new position

When the gunner loses sight of the Assistant Gunner while in defilade, calling out "Mark!" allows the gunner to record the distance to the last known position of the target. This communication technique is crucial in maintaining situational awareness and ensuring that both the gunner and the Assistant Gunner can effectively coordinate their actions even when visibility is compromised. By marking the distance, the gunner can refer back to this information to adjust fire if necessary or to prepare for potential subsequent engagements. This action emphasizes the importance of communication and maintaining tactical efficiency in a dynamic operational environment. It helps ensure that the team can act cohesively, particularly when visual contact is lost due to obstacles or terrain features that obscure sight lines.

10. What is the purpose of the dead space noted in the range card?

A. Indicates areas for retreat

B. Marks safe zones for civilians

C. Identifies areas not reachable by direct fire

D. Shows areas of concealment for soldiers

The purpose of the dead space noted in the range card is to identify areas not reachable by direct fire. Dead space refers to specific ground areas that cannot be effectively targeted or observed by a machine gun due to obstacles in their line of sight or range limitations. Recognizing these areas is crucial in military operations, as it allows for a comprehensive understanding of terrain coverage. This information aids in making tactical decisions regarding positioning and engagement strategies, ensuring that all potential threats are accounted for and allowing for better operational planning. Understanding dead space helps in identifying potential vulnerabilities in the defense setup and planning for support or alternative measures to cover those areas.