

# **AIR RIFLE SAFETY & RANGE PROCEDURES**

JROTC Marksmanship Training,  
Section V

# Air Rifle Safety & Range Procedures

## Section Objective:

To learn about gun and range safety and the actions JROTC cadets must perform to safely participate in air rifle marksmanship



# Air Rifle Safety Training

- ◎ Safe Gun Handling Rules
- ◎ Shooting Range Basics
- ◎ Range Commands
- ◎ Protecting Your Health
- ◎ Everyone is a Safety Officer
- ◎ Range Firing Procedures
- ◎ Self-Discipline & Focus
- ◎ Becoming “Marksmanship Qualified”

# Safety Performance Objectives

## Properly Trained Cadets Will:

- ⦿ Be aware of the gun **muzzle** and maintain proper muzzle **control** at all times
- ⦿ Check for and maintain an **open action**, with CBI properly inserted, on every gun they handle
- ⦿ Keep **fingers off of the trigger** at all times until actually aiming at a target
- ⦿ Respond properly to range commands and special range situations
- ⦿ Be aware of the gun handling of those around them to assist others in following safe gun handling rules

# Learning To Handle Guns Safely

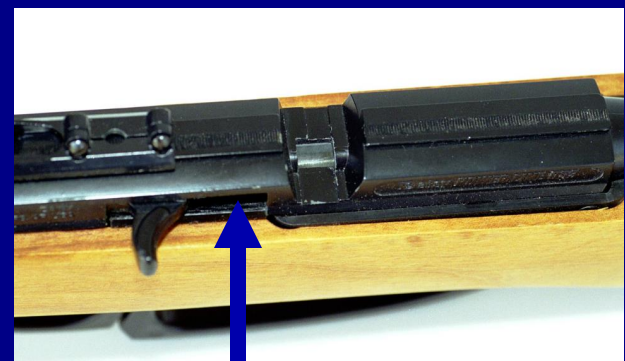
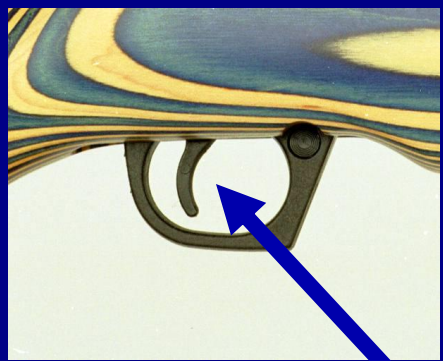
- ◎ The goal—eliminate all gun accidents!
- ◎ Know primary gun parts that affect safety: M-A-T
- ◎ Apply M-A-T performance standards
- ◎ Practice handling air rifles--safety comes from practice, not knowledge
- ◎ Safe gun handling rules apply to all guns and firearms

# Primary Gun Parts that Affect Safety

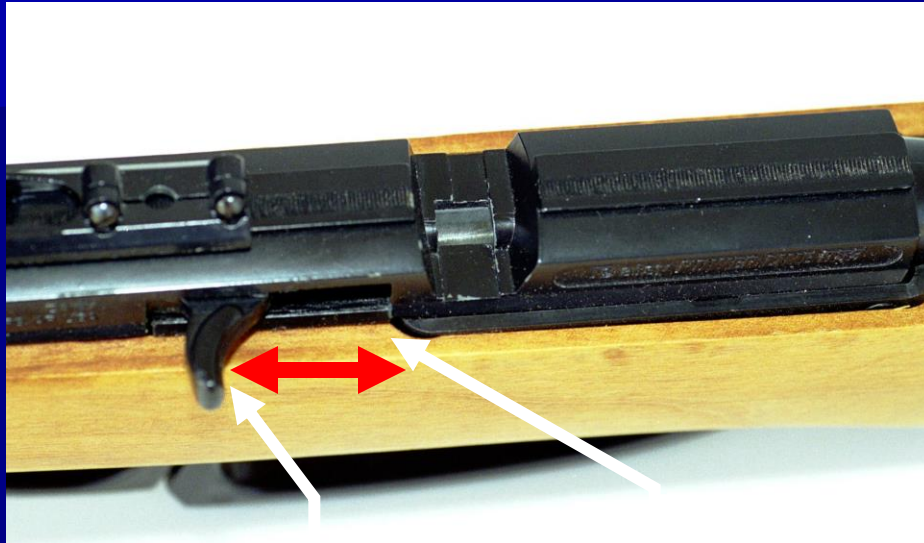
**3. Trigger**

**2. Action**

**1. Muzzle**



# How Air Rifle Actions Function

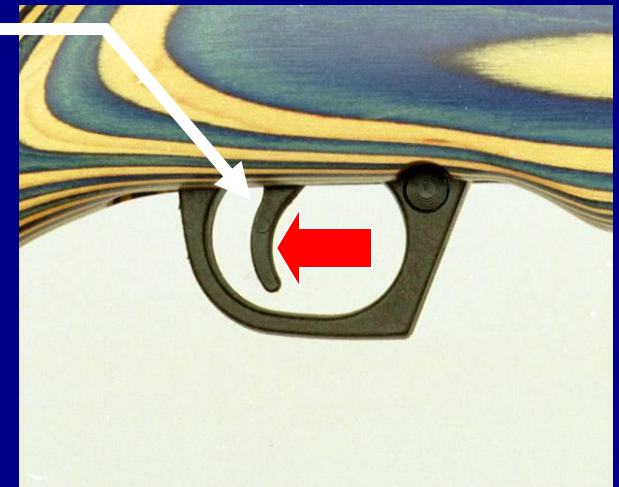


Air rifle actions have a bolt or action that can be opened or closed. Opening the action exposes the breech (rear) end of the barrel for loading. Opening and closing the bolt/action cocks the firing mechanism to prepare the rifle for firing.

Daisy M853-  
bolt in open  
position,  
pulled to  
rear

Close  
bolt by  
pushing  
forward

Pressing the  
trigger to  
the rear  
releases the  
mechanism  
to fire the  
loaded rifle



# Rule 1--Muzzle Control

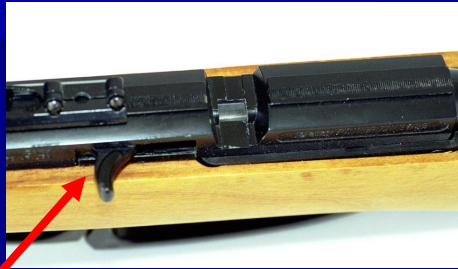
- ⦿ 1st gun handling rule: control the direction the muzzle points
- ⦿ Point the gun in a safe direction—usually upward or downrange towards the targets
- ⦿ Never point a gun at another person
- ⦿ Carry guns with the muzzle above head level





# Rule 2—Action Open

## OPEN AIR RIFLE ACTIONS



- ⦿ 2<sup>nd</sup> gun handling rule--keep gun action open, except when firing
- ⦿ Visually check the action to verify that it is open
- ⦿ Keep a CBI inserted to confirm that the action is open
- ⦿ A gun with an open action cannot be fired unintentionally
- ⦿ On target ranges, actions must remain open at all times, with CBIs inserted, except when the rifle is on the firing line and dry or live firing is authorized

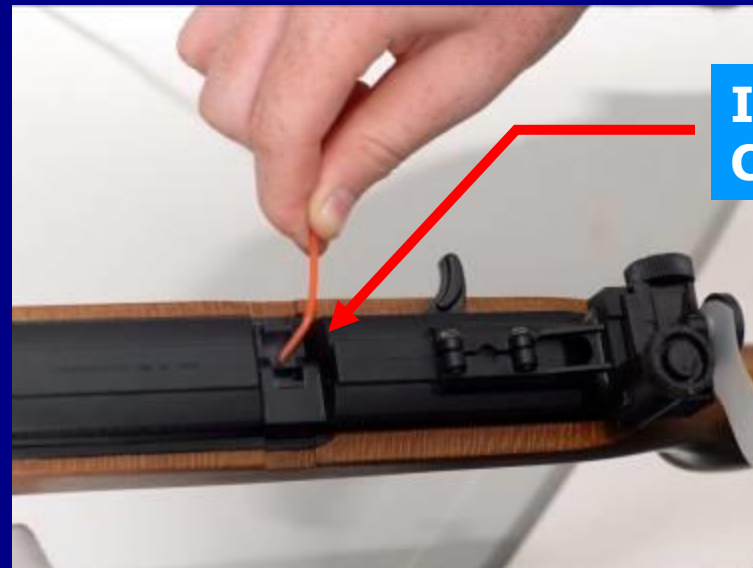
# Rule 3—Finger Off Trigger

- ⦿ 3<sup>rd</sup> gun handling rule-- keep fingers outside of trigger guard except when aiming
- ⦿ The trigger guard protects the trigger from being unintentionally pulled
- ⦿ Place the index finger on the trigger only after starting to aim at the target



# CBI—Clear Barrel Indicator

- ◎ CBI (Clear Barrel Indicator) confirms that rifle is unloaded
- ◎ CBI must be in rifle at all times except during preparation and firing
- ◎ CBI removed on firing line when preparation for firing begins
- ◎ When firing is complete, ground rifle, insert CBI
- ◎ Keep CBIs clean and off the floor



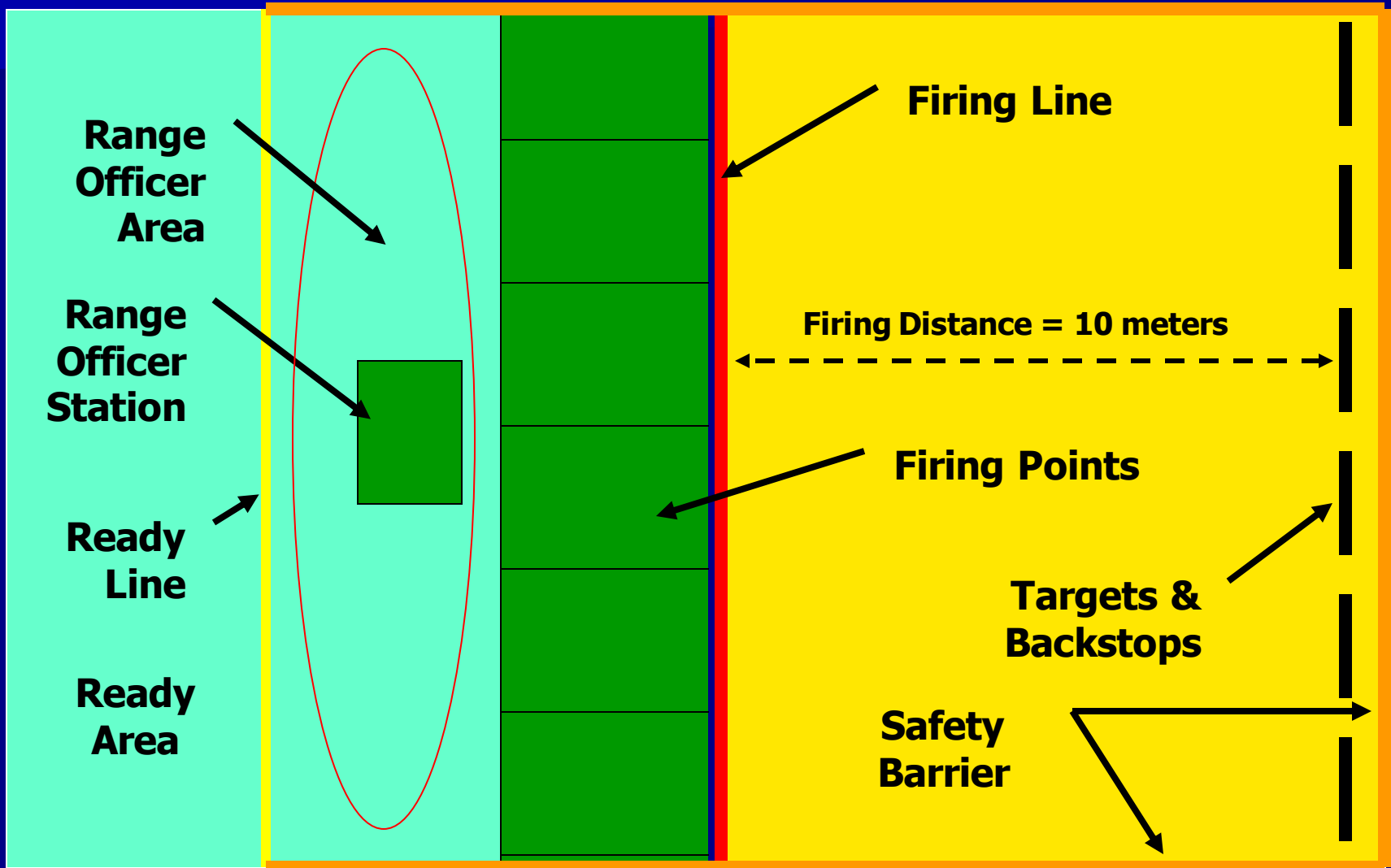
Inserting  
CBI

# Safety Rules Apply to All Guns

**Safe Gun Handling Rules  
Apply to all guns in all  
circumstances**



# Air Rifle Range Layout



# Range Rules

- ⦿ Range Officer: In charge of range, RO must be an adult, adult RO must be present
- ⦿ Firing Point: One for each shooter
- ⦿ Target Holder/Backstop: One for each firing point
- ⦿ Firing Line: No part of the body may touch the firing line or the floor ahead of line
- ⦿ Ready Line: Persons waiting to fire & spectators must remain behind line

# Basic Range Commands

## ◎ **LOAD**

- ◎ OK to charge gas mechanism
- ◎ OK to insert pellet
- ◎ OK to close action
- ◎ Not OK to shoot

## ◎ **START**

- ◎ OK to begin firing
- ◎ OK to continue firing
- ◎ When last shot is fired—open action, insert CBI, ground rifle

## ◎ **STOP**

- ◎ Immediately stop attempting to fire shot (finger off trigger!)
- ◎ Firing no longer authorized

## ◎ **UNLOAD**

- ◎ Open action and ground rifle
- ◎ Notify RO if rifle remains loaded
- ◎ RO must confirm unloaded condition--RO assistance is required to unload loaded rifles

# Range Safety Conditions

## ⊙ Line is "Hot":

- ⊙ No one is forward of firing line
- ⊙ Line is ready for firing

## ⊙ Call to Firing Line:

- ⊙ OK to move rifle and equipment to firing line
- ⊙ Handling rifles may be permitted, CBIs remain in

## ⊙ Preparation Period:

- ⊙ OK to remove CBIs, close bolts and dry-fire or do aiming exercises
- ⊙ Charging gas or loading is not authorized

## ⊙ Unloaded Rifle:

- ⊙ Action open
- ⊙ No pellet in barrel
- ⊙ CBI inserted

## ⊙ Grounded Rifle:

- ⊙ On floor or bench
- ⊙ Unloaded w/CBI inserted

## ⊙ Line is Clear:

- ⊙ Rifles are unloaded, grounded and checked
- ⊙ No one handles rifles

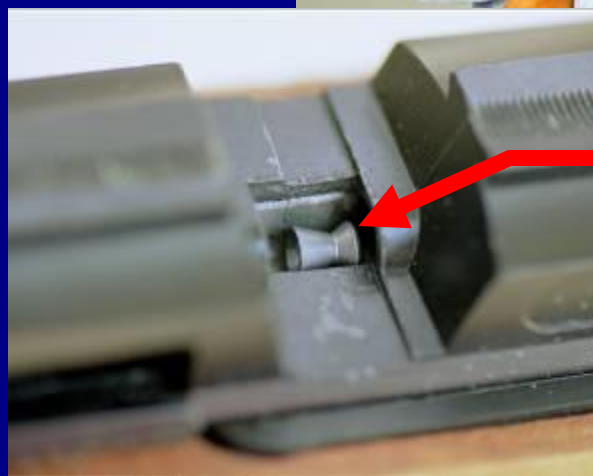


# Safe Loading Procedure

Prevents the inadvertent discharge of the rifle

1. Open Action
2. Charge Air
3. Insert Pellet  
(skirt to rear!)
4. Close Action
5. Place rifle in position and fire shot
6. Open action-- repeat

Open action, charge air lever, then insert pellet



Insert pellet here, then close bolt

# Dry Firing

- ⦿ Dry Firing: Cocking and releasing trigger mechanism, without charging gas system, to simulate firing
- ⦿ Will not damage air rifles
- ⦿ Some air rifles cannot be dry fired (Daisy M887/888); aiming exercises can be done in lieu of dry firing
- ⦿ An especially effective way to practice
- ⦿ Where: Only on designated firing point
- ⦿ When: When authorized by RO (e.g. practice or preparation periods)
- ⦿ Do not charge air during dry firing--just open and close action to cock trigger mechanism

# Range Safety Procedures

## ⦿ Malfunctions

- ⦿ Stay in position
- ⦿ Keep rifle pointed downrange
- ⦿ Raise Hand
- ⦿ Wait for RO to inspect rifle and give instructions



# Range Safety Procedures

## ⦿ Firing Completed

- ⦿ Immediately **open action**
- ⦿ Get out of firing position
- ⦿ **Ground rifle**
- ⦿ **Insert CBI**
- ⦿ Wait for instructions



# Range Safety Procedures

- ⦿ **Loaded Rifle after *STOP-UNLOAD***
  - ⦿ Remain in position
  - ⦿ Keep rifle pointed downrange
  - ⦿ Raise Hand
  - ⦿ Wait for RO to give instructions to fire rifle in PDC (Pellet Discharge Container) or backstop



**Discharging  
loaded rifle  
into PDC**

# Personal Safety & Hygiene



## ◎ Pellet Handling Hygiene

- ◎ Lead is toxic
- ◎ No food on range
- ◎ No open beverage containers
- ◎ **WASH HANDS AFTER HANDLING PELLETS**

## ◎ Safety Glasses

- ◎ Wearing safety or eyeglasses during air rifle firing is recommended (required in NJROTC)

## ◎ Personal Clothing

- ◎ Sweatshirt or work shirt
- ◎ Glove (for hand that holds or supports rifle)
- ◎ *Note: Hearing protection is not required for air rifle*

# Gun Cases

## Gun Cases:

- ⦿ Used to store and transport air rifles
- ⦿ Behind firing line—keep rifles in closed cases
- ⦿ Bring closed case to firing line with muzzle oriented downrange
- ⦿ After opening case—open action and insert CBI
- ⦿ Remove rifle from case, ground rifle, remove case from firing line
- ⦿ After firing—replace rifle in case on firing line—CBI may be removed, action closed and trigger released before closing case



# Special Conditions

## ◎ Safeties

- ◎ Mechanical devices to facilitate carrying loaded guns
- ◎ On target ranges, the safety is the open action and CBI
- ◎ Most target air rifles do not have mechanical safeties
- ◎ The use of the mechanical safety is not required in air rifle target shooting

## ◎ Safe Air Rifles for Target Ranges

- ◎ Use only 4.5mm/.177 cal. air rifles
- ◎ Use only air rifles with pellet velocities of 600 fps or less

## ◎ Taking a Break

- ◎ Never lay a loaded rifle down
- ◎ Rifle must be cleared with a CBI inserted before laying it down

## ◎ Some ranges may have special safety rules—they must be followed too



# Achieving a Perfect Safety Record

- ◎ Safety requires self-discipline and focus--you are the most important component of safety
- ◎ Everyone is a Safety Officer
  - ◎ Never tolerate unsafe gun handling by others
  - ◎ Act immediately to correct unsafe situations
  - ◎ Anyone can call **STOP** in a safety emergency
- ◎ Remember the Goal—Eliminate All Gun Accidents!

# Becoming Marksmanship Qualified

- ⦿ Cadets must attend safety training class
- ⦿ Cadets must pass a standard safety exam
  - ⦿ Exam based on safety training class and ***Cadets Guide to Air Rifle Safety***
- ⦿ Cadets must sign ***Cadet Safety Pledge***
- ⦿ Enjoy your rifle marksmanship experience!

