

JROTC SAFETY ALERT

Weapons on School Campuses

Due to the recent rise in incidents involving weapons (guns) on school campuses, and the heightened awareness with regards to (WRT) gun control, our JROTC Cadets and Instructors may be at a higher degree of risk of serious injury or death.

Several recent incidents have involved Cadets practicing drill competition or conducting air rifle marksmanship training, then subsequently taking their rifles with them while going to do something else on the school campus. Transporting the rifle across or on the school campus immediately raised security and safety concerns among school administrators and their security personnel, and could have seriously endangered the Cadets carrying the rifles, their Instructors, or other students and school employees on campus.

For security personnel, particularly those who are new or have not had sufficient training to distinguish a perspective terrorist from a Cadet in uniform with a non-operational (demilitarized) rifle, this could result in a major incident or even in the serious injury or death of a Cadet or Instructor. Even the most experienced and fully trained security and law enforcement personnel have made tragic mistakes in attempting to identify whether a student with a demilitarized rifle is harmless or a potential threat.

In view of this potential danger, following are some safety and security considerations that may prove critical to your risk management concerns:

- Ensure all training, especially with drill or air rifles, is scheduled and indicated on a published training schedule.
- Ensure all changes to the training schedule, especially with regards to training involving drill or air rifles, are posted, and that all school and other authorities are notified of the changes.
- Ensure the school's main office, security and safety offices, and school/campus police are notified and made aware that you are conducting training that will involve rifles or other items that may be considered to be weapons.

- Ensure the school has notified proper authorities that you will be conducting training involving rifles or other items that may be considered to be weapons.
- Ensure Cadets train in a centralized area and under the supervision of a certified Instructor.
- Ensure Cadets are not released from the training area while carrying or transporting weapons. If Cadets have to go somewhere else during the training session, ensure they leave their rifle with an authorized person at the training site.
- Ensure rifles/weapons are secured and locked up in an authorized storage area with limited access, and that only Instructors have the ability to unlock the area.
- Ensure no unauthorized firearms or ammunition are stored with your drill rifles or air rifles.
- Ensure your drill rifles or air rifles are not stored or locked in either open or locked vehicles.
- Ensure all Cadets and Cadre are briefed prior to each training event, to include practices, with regards to safety and security.
- Ensure everyone is aware of the location of the nearest medical support in case of emergencies, and the procedures for local emergency plans.
- Ensure everyone is aware of and follows school guidelines and procedures WRT safety, security, and the notification process for emergencies. In the event of emergencies, use the following notification process: your school officials, then your DAI office and or brigade. Notification to the Army JROTC office should be through your brigade.