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Targets

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1. Each Air Army and VVS Military District has one main bombing range (poligon) which is under the supervision of the Chief of the Bombing-Range Service of the Air Army or VVS Military District.
2. Bombers and ground attack aircraft use this range for bombing during corps or army maneuvers. Furthermore, the army bombing range may be used by air units and joint-units which are based in its area for the purpose of gunnery at ground targets and bombing during their training flights. The Air Army (or VVS Military District) bombing range is serviced by a special bombing range team. In addition, each air division has its own bombing range on which it conducts gunnery at ground targets, ground-attack, and bombing, during its training flights. Occasionally, an air division will have two bombing ranges but this happens very infrequently. However, in this case, the second bombing range is under the supervision of the regiment which is based at a considerable distance from the division's airfield. According to its T/O, each air division has a bombing range team which is assigned to the servicing of the division bombing range. The chief of the bombing range team of an air division should be an officer in the grade of Senior Lieutenant according to the T/O. The other members of this team are sergeants and privates.
3. Before a training flight, that is, on the evening before the flight, a flight order is issued in the air regiment. This order indicates who will supervise flights at the bombing range, and other data concerning the impending flights. The supervisor of flights at the bombing range should be the assistant commander of the air regiment for aerial combat tactics and aerial gunnery. However, if

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he has to be absent from the unit for any reason whatsoever or if he has to be in the air, the following individuals may be assigned as supervisor of flights at the bombing range: the deputy commander of the regiment for flying matters, the regimental navigator, or, the commander of an air squadron (whose squadron is not going to participate in that particular day's training flight); in no case can an officer in a lower position than air squadron commander be assigned to this position.

4. If, on this day, two air regiments are to participate in the training flight which includes aerial gunnery at ground targets or bombing exercises, the supervisor of flights at the bombing range will be the chief of the air division's aerial gunnery service or, in his absence, the air division commander can assign one of the following three individuals to this position: the division's pilot-proficiency inspector, the division navigator or, in some cases, the deputy commander of the air division for flying matters. The individual assigned as supervisor of flights at the bombing range has to arrive at the range two hours before any gunnery or bombing takes place there. Upon his arrival at the range the supervisor has to inspect the condition of the targets, check the working order of communications equipment (radio and telephone), and select a place from which he will supervise gunnery and bombing. The supervisor of flights at the bombing range has a mobile radio station with him with which he maintains contact with the airfields and airborne aircraft.
5. A fighter air division's bombing range has the following equipment: aircraft models, motor vehicle models, and ordinary targets. A bomber or ground attack air division's range has the following equipment: aircraft models, motor vehicle models, ordinary targets, and other structures. All of these are made of plywood or thin boards.
6. The procedure at a Fighter Air Division's Bombing Range is as follows: On the day prior to the flight, a preliminary preparation for the flight is conducted in the fighter air regiment at which all of the planned flight exercises and the method of their execution is studied. At this briefing, the supervisor of pre-flight preparation explains the following: how gunnery at ground targets on the bombing range will be conducted, from which direction the pilots will have to make their approaches, what they must do prior to making their approaches at the range, height from which dives have to be made, the maximum and minimum angle at which dives are to be made, distance at which firing is to be opened and stopped, who will be the supervisor of flights at the bombing-range, and his call sign and index. One hour before take-off time, the supervisor of flights (the commander of a fighter air regiment or division or his deputy) checks on how the flying personnel have mastered their flying assignments, including the gunnery exercises which they are to execute at the range.
7. When airborne, the crews or pairs which have to fire at the range fly there. When approaching the range, they radio the supervisor of flights at the bombing range and request permission to fire on the range; this request is expressed in coded terms using the radio signal table. For example: "Birch-Tree-01, I am Birch Tree 127-08". This means that "Birch-Tree" stands for the general call sign of the whole fighter air regiment, "01" is the personal index of the supervisor of flights at the bombing range, "127" is the personal index of the pilot in the air, and "98" stands for "Request permission to fire." The supervisor of flights at the range may answer in the following manner: "Birch-Tree 127, I am Birch-Tree-01, 08 permission granted on the 4th", or, "08-4 permission granted." This means that he is granting the pilot permission to fire at the 4th target. After receiving such permission, the pilot replies that he understands and then proceeds to make his approach and to open fire at the indicated target.
8. On some occasions, the supervisor of flights at the bombing range may forbid a pilot to fire on the range. For instance, if the pilot executed an incorrect maneuver in approaching the target: the pilot is flying at an incorrect altitude; or some other mistakes have been made that are violations of the conditions of aerial-gunnery exercises or that tend to cause flying accidents. The supervisor of flights at the bombing range unceasingly watches the operation of aircraft (groups) which are firing at ground targets on the range or which are approaching the bombing range preparatory to firing. He notices all gunnery errors or insufficiencies of individual aircraft and notes these down in the journal of the supervisor of flights at the bombing range; the scores obtained in firing are entered into the gunnery journal. The latter journal contains pictures of all targets at the bombing range and the supervisor places the scores obtained on these. The supervisor of flights at the bombing range invariably radios and informs the pilot of mistakes in approaching to fire or while firing; the pilot then has to correct the mistakes that have been indicated to him.
9. The pilot is not permitted to select his own target but must fire at the one which was indicated to him by the supervisor of flights at the bombing range. For this reason, the pilot is always informed of the exact number of his target while he is approaching the range.
10. Thus, the day of flying at the bombing range passes. After all of the aircraft have completed firing, the supervisor of flights at the bombing range contacts the supervisor of flights at the airfield by radio and informs him that operations at his point are completed and that he is going off the air. Having received permission from the supervisor of flights at the bombing range, he returns to his airfield with the radio station. Upon returning to the airfield, he reports to the supervisor of flights (the commander of

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the fighter air regiment) and informs him of the gunnery scores made at the range and of any mistakes, as well as any others made during the given day, which are carefully analyzed by the commander of the regiment in the presence of all flying personnel at the post-flight critique.

11. The procedure at a bomber air unit's bombing range is as follows: The supervisor of flights at the bombing range is assigned (in the order which deals with flights from among individuals) in the following positions: the chief of the aerial gunnery service, the regimental deputy commander and in some cases, experienced air squadron commanders if the chief of the aerial gunnery service and the deputy commander are absent from the unit for any reason what-so-ever, or have a more important assignment to perform.
12. The person assigned as supervisor of flights at the bombing range leaves for the range at a time which will enable him to arrive at the range two hours before bombing exercises are to commence. Upon arriving at the range, he checks the condition of equipment there and then reports by radio to the supervisor of flights at the airfield that the bombing range is ready for operations. The message dealing with the range's readiness is transmitted in a coded form using the radio-signal table. The supervisor of flights at the bomber air unit's bombing range has the same communications equipment as his counterpart at a fighter air unit's range.
13. The bomber air unit's range is divided into zones (sectors). The supervisor of flights at this range has a grid map of the range on which he indicates the points at which bombs hit. The supervisor of flights at a bomber air unit's range is located under cover at the control point from which the whole area of the range is clearly visible. He observes all operations of crews in the air during the execution of bombing exercises and sometimes sets-up a "commitment" for some crew by radio (ie he presents some hypothetical situation, for example: "they are being attacked by enemy fighters", to them in order to see what measures they will take). All deficiencies in the operations of crews are entered into a journal and later reported on to the supervisor of flights at the airfield. At the post-flight critique, this individual in the presence of all flight personnel carefully analyzes all the deficiencies noted by the supervisor of flights at the range and suggests methods for their elimination.
14. The procedures followed in briefing the crews of a bomber air unit on the bombing exercises they are to execute is the same as in fighter air units. Crews executing bombing exercises have to photograph the results of their bombing. An evaluation of their bombing is made on the basis of these photographs and the grid map filled out by the range supervisor of flights.
15. Ground-attack air units function in exactly the same way at their bombing ranges as do fighter and bomber air units at theirs. The process of preparation and the communications equipment is also the same as those of a fighter air division and a bomber air unit.
16. On each bombing range, there is a range team which is included in the T/O. This team (command) is commanded by the chief of the bombing range who is a lieutenant or senior lieutenant. His responsibilities are:
 - (a) To equip the bombing range in accordance with the requirements set forth in the manual on bombing range service;
 - (b) To continually maintain all range equipment in good condition;
 - (c) To guard all range equipment;
 - (d) To train his subordinates in accordance with the requirements set forth in manuals and regulations;
 - (e) To supervise the life and work of his subordinates.

The personnel strength of a range team (command) varies between approximately five and 15 men depending on to whom the particular range belongs. In other words, if this range belongs to an air army, the strength of the team is greater; if it belongs to a fighter air division, the strength will be less. The numbers of this team include the following specialists: carpenters, painters, a driver, a cook etc.

17. The chief of the bombing range team is directly subordinate to the division chief of staff. Because of this, the supervisor of flights at the bombing range does not have the authority to issue any orders whatsoever to the chief of the bombing range. He merely informs the chief when bombing and gunnery practice is to take place at the range so that the bombing range team's work schedule will be organized accordingly. If the chief of the division's aerial gunnery service or one of the other division command officers is assigned as supervisor of flights at the bombing range, the chief of the bombing range has to obey his orders. It should be pointed out that the chief of the range team is informed of any gunnery exercises which are to take place at the range one day in advance.
18. The chief of the bombing range team is almost never present at the command point of the supervisor of flights at the bombing range; instead, he is occupied with the daily routine and the training schedule authenticated by the division chief of staff.

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