

Code of Conduct, its applicability to U.S. personnel in captivity, and its importance to morale and discipline. Additionally, the audience was reminded that criminal sanctions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice apply to a PW who aids the enemy or acts to the detriment of his fellow PWs.

Leaders at all levels need to demand law of war training for their units that combines classroom instruction and field

training. An integrated program of such training will make the Hague and Geneva Conventions more meaningful for the individual soldier. A film such as *Breaker Morant* can address the moral responsibility of the combatant in modern warfare. Hands-on law of war instruction, like the training at Bonnlund, will capture attention and heighten interest. The result will be a soldier who recognizes that law does have a place in war.



Captain Frederic L. Borch III developed this training program while serving as Judge Advocate to the 4th Battalion (Airborne), 325th Regiment (Battalion Combat Team) in Italy. He holds a law degree from the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Brussels, Belgium.

The M203 in Urban Fighting

CAPTAIN CHRISTOPHER E. ALLEN

During training for military operations in urban terrain, infantry commanders soon realize how isolated small units can become when they are engaged in an urban fight. As a platoon disappears down a side street or a squad enters a building, the leaders of those small units face the challenge of accomplishing their missions without being in the familiar line of sight or range of voice control of a senior commander.

Urban terrain magnifies the importance of strong squads built around aggressive fire teams manned by proficient, confident soldiers. The company commander who neither trains nor trusts his squads to seize the initiative when they are isolated from their parent units will fail to control the momentum of an urban fight.

Accordingly, sections, squads, and platoons must become self-reliant in urban combat, and a company commander must take the responsibility for training his combat teams to fight independently and win even in the absence of external support. A part of this training should be specifically designed to make sure his combat team members are fully profi-

cient with the weapons they have. A commander cannot afford to accept anything less than a professionally trained soldier on each key weapon system in his unit.

One of the most versatile weapons a platoon has, but one that is often wasted, is the M203 grenade launcher. If a unit's grenadiers are properly trained, a fire team can lob a grenade into a room or basement aperture from 150 meters, or cause casualties and create shock in an enemy unit moving down a city street at a range of more than 350 meters. Since a rifle platoon can mass six grenade launchers in support of an assaulting squad, a well-trained small unit can forge its own success in the absence of indirect fire or armor support. Unfortunately, platoons lose many opportunities to use the M203 in city fighting because the average street width is less than the arming distance of the round, or because tall fences or walls that permit observation of a potential target obstruct its engagement with the 40mm grenade. In these situations, the grenadiers do not realize that there is a method—though an unorthodox one—that they can use to employ their weapons effectively. This method

is a simple revival of the high angle fire technique used with the M79, as outlined in FM 23-31. With it, what was once deadspace can be made into a kill zone.

Given some exposure to this technique, grenadiers and small unit leaders soon realize that the M203 is essentially a 40mm mortar that is capable of engaging targets high above ground—roof-top snipers, for example, while a clearing team bounds into a building. It can also be fired from a defilade position behind a wall at a known target using range card data.

While this method is far from perfect, in the hands of a trained gunner it does increase the fighting efficiency of the small unit, not only in urban combat but in many conventional situations as well.

Teaching the high angle firing technique does not cost much in the way of time and resources. In fact, it can be part of a unit's concurrent training program when it undergoes its standard M203 range qualification. This training should be taught in two phases, the first of which should be used to introduce the concept and its potential uses and to explain a simple elevation technique for controlling range.

This technique is similar to the marked sling method used with the M79 and shown in the manual. It consists of a weighted string attached to the right side of the front sling swivel (as shown in the photograph) to help a gunner achieve



the proper high angle for the desired ranges. At various pre-marked points the weighted string will hang in a particular relationship to the butt of the weapon. The table gives a fairly accurate estimate of the angle of elevation for various ranges and the distance the string should hang out from the butt of the weapon to achieve that angle.

After a gunner gets the feel of this kind of firing, the weighted string, while still desirable, will no longer be necessary.

The second phase of instruction should be conducted at the firing line so the soldiers can experiment under close supervision. The most effective round to use for this firing is a smoke streamer round from the M696-M701 series. Each gunner should be allowed 10 smoke rounds.

A smoke streamer provides an advantage over TPT rounds in that soldiers can visualize the trajectory of each shot and can adjust for the proper point of impact. (Because of the near perpendicular angle of incidence at the target surface, TPT marking powder does not splash well and is therefore difficult to identify.) With the smoke round, most new gunners can come within five meters of the target with the first four rounds. Accuracy greatly increases with the amount of experimentation each gunner does.

Subsequent sustainment training can be accomplished with ten smoke rounds being allowed each gunner when the unit conducts its M203 qualification firing. Leaders should also make a point of showing their grenadiers when this technique could be used during training exercises in the field and during MOUT exercises.

Here are a few points to bear in mind with M203 high angle fire:

- Because of the potential for error with the M203 in high angle firing, soldiers in training should be closely monitored. At ranges of less than 200 meters, small movements of the weapon produce great decreases in range.

- The time of flight for the projectile

RANGE	ELEVATION	STRING DISTANCE
0 M	90°	-2"
50 M	85°	+ 1/2"
100 M	81°	+2"
200 M	69°	+6"
300 M	58°	+14"
400 M	41°	+19"

is between 10 and 14 seconds. This increases a round's exposure to wind vectors, which affect range and deflection more than when it is fired at a low trajectory. For this reason, a round should not be used for training at less than 150 meters.

- The maximum ordinate of flight is about 150 meters. Shots can be made on top of or over 15-story buildings with angles of as little as 75 degrees. With taller buildings, however, there is a risk of an overhead burst that might endanger friendly troops.

When used for high angle firing, the M203 should be considered a supplementary technique that increases the flexibility and self-sufficiency of small units in urban terrain. Becoming proficient with this technique should be a challenge to the grenadier who wants to be a professional with the M203. By exposing his grenadiers to this method, a company commander can increase the capability and fighting power of his unit.

Captain Christopher E. Allen is a 1980 graduate of the United States Military Academy. When he prepared this article, he was serving in the 3d battalion, 6th Infantry, Berlin Brigade. He has since completed the Infantry Officer Advanced Course.

Live Fire Exercises

CAPTAIN GARY A. BRACHT

The commander's and platoon leader's orders had been issued, rehearsals conducted, and final coordinations completed. As the time to cross the line of departure approached, last minute weapon checks were conducted. At the

attack position, the order was quickly passed to lock and load. There were no blank adapters or dummy demolitions. Instead, each soldier had been issued his basic load of ball ammunition. The M203 gunners' ammunition vests bulged with

40mm target practice and smoke rounds. The attached engineer squad members carried their satchel charges and Bangalore torpedoes. The 90mm recoilless rifle gunners and assistant gunners arranged their flechette rounds to be readily