

Rail Training Support Package (TSP)

Unit Rail Team Training Program for Loading and Off-Loading Rail Cars

29 February 2024



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Foreign Disclosure: FD1 - This training product has been reviewed by the training developers in coordination with the CASCOM/Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia foreign disclosure officer. This training product can be used to instruct international military students from all approved countries without restrictions.

US Army Transportation School

This publication is available at the Army Sustainment Resource Portal: [Army Sustainment Resource Portal \(ASRP\) - Unit Rail Team TSP](#) ..

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Preface

This Training Support Package (TSP) provides standardized rail team training and assessments for conducting rail load and off-load operations. This publication should always be used in conjunction with AR 56-3, Management of Army Rail Equipment, AR 385-10, The Army Safety and Occupational Health Program; AR 525-93, Army Deployment and Redeployment, and TM 4-14.21, Rail Safety to ensure a complete and comprehensive unit rail team training program.

This Training Support Package provides the instructor with a standardized lesson plans, assessments, certification, and references for presenting instruction as indicated below. Lesson plans and assessments can be modified to add tasks related to unique conditions and requirements at various installations conducting railhead operations.

Task Title

- Lesson Plan: Conduct Rail Load Operations
- Lesson Plan: Conduct Rail Off-Load Operations
- Rail Load Team Assessment/Certification
- Rail Off-Load Team Assessment/Certification
- Rail Safety Training and Certification

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SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION

This TSP provides the unit rail team with the tools and knowledge needed to safely conduct rail load and off load operations. Some rail car loading basics to help you ensure equipment arrives in the same condition in which it left is provided below.

- Know the rules. For starters, it's important to know there are official guidelines in place for shipping by rail. These are set by the American Association of Railroads (better known as the AAR), the governing body for railroads.
- Properly Place and Secure the Load. Items must be properly secured in place or tied down so that the load doesn't spill, topple over or shift during transit.
- Follow the Right Load Plan. Determine the optimal loading and securement for the equipment to be loaded.
- Packing Materials Matter. Proper blocking and bracing, fasteners, dunnage, strapping and tie downs dunnage protect the equipment from shifting or breaking during the course of the trip.

Additionally, this TSP provides the instructor with a standardized lesson plan for presenting instruction and assessment of unit rail teams.

SCOPE

1-1. This TSP provides leaders with the tools they need to provide standardized unit rail team training. Leaders must emphasize and highlight the rules and acceptable loading standards common to rail flatcars. Many rules are simply common sense, for responsible loading/off-loading of equipment, some are demanding. All are critical in building a strong reliable and safe load.

1-2. This TSP provides the unit rail team with the baseline training and techniques to enhance the safety of all concerned. Special Interest should be given to TM 4-14.12, Rail Safety as it provides authoritative safety information for rail operations conducted by Army rail team personnel both within the United States and at overseas duty stations. It describes both general safety guidelines and procedural rules for conducting operations in a safe manner. It provides basic information for commanders and staffs of operating units and for staff officers of higher headquarters.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

1-3. The supporting training materials and references indicated below can be found at the Rail TSP portal in the "Reference" tab at: [Army Sustainment Resource Portal \(ASRP\) - Unit Rail Team TSP](#), then select "References" tab to download files.

- Task 551-88H-4000 Review Rail Plan for Loading and Unloading Cargo

- Task 551-88H-2306 Conduct Rail Loading Operations
 - Task 551-88H-2305 Inspect Blocking and Bracing Materials Required for Rail Movement
 - Task 551-88H-2016 Validate Dangerous Cargo for Rail Transport
 - Task 551-88H-2001 Conduct Rail Loading Operations
 - Task 551-88H-2000 Inspect Blocking, Bracing Materials Required for Rail Movement
 - Task 551-88H-1305 Identify Dangerous Cargo for Rail Transport
 - Task 551-88H-1302 Load Vehicles on Flatcar
 - Task 551-88A-1317 Manage Rail Head Operations
 - Task 551-88A 9067 Coordinate Brigade Level Rail Load Operations
 - Task 551-UMODC02 / 8.0 Fort to Port - Rail Operations
 - Task 551-88N12IB1 / 1.0 Conduct Railhead Operations
 - Task 551-88N10B09 / 8.0 Conduct Rail Loading Operations
 - Task 551_88H30D02 / IRR Manage Rail Loading Operations
 - Fort to Port Rail Overview Briefing.pptx
 - Sample Rail UMO Brief.pptx
 - SDDC TEA MI 19 Tiedown Instructions for Rail Movements
 - SDDC PAM_700-5 Deployment Planning Guide
 - SDDC Rail Transport Rail Tiedown Lessons Learned URL
 - Sample Railhead Pusher Unit Requirements.docx
 - Sample Rail Training Support Plan Outline.docx
- Technical Manuals (TMs):
 - TM 55-2220-058-14 Transportability Guidance 140T Capacity Railcar Flat, 140 Ton Capacity

SECTION 2 - LESSON PLAN: CONDUCT RAIL LOAD OPERATIONS

This section describes the action, conditions, standards, and Lesson Step /Activity (LSA) located at the following link: [LessonPlan-RailOffloadTeamTraining.pdf \(army.mil\)](#) For this Lesson Plan, an Army leader is defined as a Soldier who is in an officer, warrant officer, or non-commissioned officer (NCO) position designated by grade, paragraph, and title on the units Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE). There are three LSAs (Plan, Prepare and Execute) to support the instructional methodology of this lesson plan and are the sequential actions that the applicable unit rail load operation members must demonstrate to perform a supported objective to an established standard. These specifications are the foundation for the lesson. The assessment plan for these LSAs is GO or NO-GO based assessment located at the following link: [AssessmentPlan-RailLoadTeamTraining.pdf \(army.mil\)](#).

SAFETY

In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with current Risk Management Doctrine. Leaders will complete the current Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet in accordance with the Local Safety Officer during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). See ATP 5-19.

LESSON STEP / ACTIVITY (LSA)

There are three elements of this LSA to achieve general learning outcomes for Conducting Rail Load Operations:

- LSA-1: Plan Rail Load Operations: consists of one (1) critical task and nine supporting steps.
- LSA-2: Prepare Rail Load Operations: consists of six (6) critical tasks and nine supporting steps.
- LSA-3: Execute Rail Load Operations consists of two (2) critical tasks and 17 supporting steps.

SECTION 3 - LESSON PLAN: CONDUCT RAIL OFF-LOAD OPERATIONS

This section describes the action, conditions, standards, contained in the Lesson Step /Activity (LSA) and is located at the following link: [LessonPlan-RailOffloadTeamTraining.pdf \(army.mil\)](#). For this Lesson Plan, an Army leader is defined as a Soldier who is in an officer, warrant officer, or non-commissioned officer (NCO) position designated by grade, paragraph, and title on the units Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE). There are three LSAs (Plan, Prepare and Execute) to support the instructional methodology of this lesson plan and are the sequential actions that the applicable unit rail load operation members must demonstrate to perform a supported objective to an established standard. These specifications are the foundation for the lesson. The assessment plan for these LSAs is GO or NO-GO based assessment located at the following link: [AssessmentPlan-RailOffloadTeamTraining.pdf \(army.mil\)](#).

Safety. In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with current Risk Management Doctrine. Leaders will complete the current Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet in accordance with the Local Safety Officer during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). See ATP 5-19.

LESSON STEP / ACTIVITY (LSA)

There are three elements of this LSA to achieve general learning outcomes for Conducting Rail Load Operations:

- LSA-1: Prepare Rail Off-Load Operations: consists of critical five (5) critical tasks and 15 supporting steps.
- LSA-2: Execute Rail Off-Load: consists of two (2) critical tasks and 12 supporting steps.

SECTION 4 – RAIL TEAM ASSESSMENT PLANS

• ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR RAIL LOAD TEAM OPERATIONS:

This section describes the assessment plan for task proficiency of the applicable steps and measures. For this assessment plan, an Army leader is defined as a Soldier who is in an officer, warrant officer, or non-commissioned officer (NCO) position designated by grade, paragraph, and title on the units Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE). The assessment covers three LSAs (Plan, Prepare and Execute) to support the instructional methodology of this lesson plan and are the sequential actions that the applicable unit rail load operation members must demonstrate to perform a supported objective to an established standard. These specifications are the foundation for the lesson. To obtain a T or T- in the assessment, 75% or more leaders present, greater than 80% of Soldiers present, receive a "GO" on 80% or more of the performance measures, all the critical performance measures and at least 80% "GO" on the leader performance measures. Must be conducted during an external evaluation. The Assessment Plan link is: [AssessmentPlan-RailLoadTeamTraining.pdf \(army.mil\)](#).

Safety. In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with current Risk Management Doctrine. Leaders will complete the current Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet in accordance with the Local Safety Officer during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). See ATP 5-19.

Go/No-Go Assessment. There are three elements of this LSA that are to be assessed as a GO or NO-GO for Conducting Rail Load Operations:

- LSA-1: Plan Rail Load Operations: assessment consists of one (1) critical task and nine supporting steps.
- LSA-2: Prepare Rail Load Operations: assessment consists of six (6) critical tasks and nine supporting steps.
- LSA-3: Execute Rail Load Operations: assessment consists of two (2) critical tasks and 17 supporting steps.
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• ASSESSMENT PLAN FOR RAIL OFF-LOAD TEAM OPERATIONS

This section describes the assessment plan for task proficiency of the applicable steps and measures. For this lesson plan assessment, an Army leader is defined as a Soldier who is in an officer, warrant officer, or non-commissioned officer (NCO) position designated by grade, paragraph, and title on the units Table of Organization and Equipment (TOE). The assessment consists of two LSAs (Prepare and Execute) that

support the instructional methodology of this lesson plan and are the sequential actions that the applicable unit rail load operation members must demonstrate to perform a supported objective to an established standard. These specifications are the foundation for the lesson. To obtain a T or T- in the assessment, 75% or more leaders present, greater than 80% of Soldiers present, receive a "GO" on 80% or more of the performance measures, all the critical performance measures and at least 80% "GO" on the leader performance measures. Must be conducted during an external evaluation. This Assessment Plan link is located at: [AssessmentPlan-RailOffloadTeamTraining.pdf \(army.mil\)](#)

Safety. In a training environment, leaders must perform a risk assessment in accordance with current Risk Management Doctrine. Leaders will complete the current Deliberate Risk Assessment Worksheet in accordance with the Local Safety Officer during the planning and completion of each task and sub-task by assessing mission, enemy, terrain and weather, troops and support available-time available and civil considerations, (METT-TC). See ATP 5-19.

Go/No-Go Assessment. There are two elements of this LSA that are to be assessed as a GO or NO-GO for Conducting Rail Off-Load Operations:

- LSA-1: Prepare Rail Off-Load Operations: consists of critical five (5) critical tasks and 15 supporting steps.
- LSA-2: Execute Rail Off-Load: consists of two (2) critical tasks and 12 supporting steps.

SECTION 5 – RAIL SAFETY TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

IAW AR 385-10, Army Safety and Occupational Health, Commanders and other leaders who are planning or conducting Railhead operations will use RM to help them assess hazards and risks. The commander or responsible leader will appoint a railhead safety officer and safety NCO. Commanders will implement a railhead qualification program for units assigned to rail loading operations, with assistance of local movement control or rail personnel. Only qualified rail loading personnel will conduct loading. In addition to the commander's qualification training, all railhead personnel will successfully complete the Railhead Safety interactive multimedia training located at [Army Sustainment Resource Portal \(ASRP\) - Unit Rail Team TSP](#). To execute the training follow the instructions located at this link: [Directions-to-Download-and-Run-Training-Technology-Products.pdf \(army.mil\)](#).

Railhead operations will comply with procedures in TM 4 – 14.21 and SDDC Transportation Engineering Agency MI 55 – 19 (available at <https://www.sddc.army.mil/sites/tea/publications/pages/default.aspx>). Rail safety information can be obtained from the Transportation Regimental Safety Office (Combined Arms Support Command) Fort Gregg-Adams VA via email at usarmy.gregg-adams.tradoc.mbx.rail-safety@army.mil.

SECTION 6 – SUPPLEMENTARY TRAINING MATERIAL

The tab labeled “Sample Unit Rail SOP and Briefing” is being provided to help personnel engaged in executing rail training with additional material to enhance the training.

Additionally, the SOP can be used as a template to help units build and provide clear-cut directions and detailed instructions needed to perform railhead operations consistently, efficiently, and safely.

Both tabs can be found at: [Army Sustainment Resource Portal \(ASRP\) - Unit Rail Team TSP](#).