

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)**

No.96/Sec(Spl)/20/10-Pt.II

New Delhi, dt. 21.1.2000

The Chief Security Commissioners/RPF,
All Zonal Railways.

The Chief Security Commissioner /RPSF,
Railway Board, New Delhi.

Standing Order No 64.

Sub:- LOSS, THEFT AND SNATCHING OF ARMS –
CAUSITIVE FACTORS AND GENERAL
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THEIR SAFETY.

During the last 5 years (1995 to 1999) there have been as many as 25 cases of loss, theft and snatching of Arms & Ammunition reported in the Force. Out of these, 17 cases relate to snatching of arms and the remaining, 4 each of loss and theft.

After studying each such incident and analysing the causes, it has been concluded that 'CARELESSNESS' is the main contributory factor for such incidents. Non-appreciation of the prevailing circumstances was, however, found to be the secondary cause.

To avoid re-occurrence of such incidents, it is imperative that the conduct of RPF/RPSF personnel, especially when they are on duty with Arms in a crowded train compartment, should be of high standard. Besides, all the supervisors and officers too, should have all round experience. It should also be kept in mind that "ALERTNESS IS THE BEST BET FOR SECURITY".

The following detailed instructions are thus issued, which should strictly be adhered to by all concerned. These orders supersede all instructions issued earlier on the subject

(A) FOR PERSONAL ATTENTION OF THE CSCs

- (i) Methods should be evolved to ensure that every member of the Force becomes professional in his job so that he can habitually anticipate such threats and is always ready to thwart any attack.
- (ii) Any kind of deployment of staff, should have a sound logic and it should be subject to constant review. In fact, prior to deployment, the rationale, goal to be achieved, logistics and system of feed-back etc., should be discussed at CSCs/DSCs level-especially for deployment of CSCs Reserve Force/RPSF and the DSCs Reserve Force, respectively.
- (iii) There should be effective communication between the supervisors and the deployed staff. However, wireless communication is a must, to ensure safety and quick response. The detachments and patrolling parties should be provided with hand-sets, so that they can be in frequent contact with the main unit. This will not only prevent staff from becoming lethargic, but, will also help them to be in touch with bigger units, which in turn, will help to deter any criminal attack.
- (iv) Supervision should always be pro-active and effective, besides being supportive and meaningful. Supervisors

should observe movement of Armed staff regularly. Any carelessness noticed, should be pointed out and repetition be prevented. In fact, the Supervisors and Officers be sensitized to their responsibility towards the safety of their subordinates.

- (v) The 'training' too, besides being periodic and requirement based, should be meaningful and effective.
- (vi) The Armed Wing of the Force should always be kept young and alert.
- (vii) Deployment of an Armed party for a period involving more than a day, should be done on specific approval of an officer not below the rank of DSC. The span of continuous duty should rather be monitored. Frequent long duty hours can make any one careless. Judicious mix of short and a long term duration duties will ensure alertness. Since the staff of 'Instant Action Group'(IAG) perform duty for an unreasonable long period, it may, therefore, lead to negligence on the part of staff, which in turn, may result in loss and theft etc. of Arms and Ammunition. Hence, this duty needs to be reviewed.
- (viii) Before any deployment, a study of topography/demography and sensitivity of the area surrounding the proposed deployment, should be done at CSC/DSC's level. The intelligence report if any, should also be considered. This will not only help in arriving at a decision in respect of optimum strength, composition and weaponry of the party to be deployed, but their logistic support and supervision

etc. can also be planned well. Besides, it will also help in preparing the deployed staff for the risk involved and for drawing contingency plan in case of attack.

- (ix) It should be ensured that the outgoing duty parties (especially those with Arms and Ammunitions) are briefed by the local Officers on all the related aspects, viz., the purpose of deployment, the goal to be achieved, the problem/danger anticipated, the local atiquate, political and social tensions and about the DOs & DONTs as well.
- (x) As far as possible, local orders on all these issues should be issued for strict compliance by all. Such orders should be prepared keeping in view, the local situation etc. of the area and these should be always kept updated. The attention span being less, repetitive briefing should be done.
- (xi) It should be ensured that occurrence of any incident involving negligence on the part of duty staff, is disseminated immediately upto the lowest level.
- (xii) Arrangements should be made to provide transport or earmarked portion in the trains, from the 'Kote' – to the 'place of duty' of Armed parties.
- (xiii) In order to keep the Armed party fresh, facility of 'Kote' and proper place of rest should be provided to it during the 'break' period – when it is sent out from Hqrs.

(xiv) Court of Enquiry should invariably be got conducted into each case of loss, theft and snatching of Arms and Ammunition. Such Court of Enquiry should submit its report within one month. If negligence of staff is established, the defaulting staff should not only be dealt with under the D.A.R. Rules, but the cost of the lost Arms/ammunition should also be recovered from him, that too, as per the market rate (instead of the book value) as it would act as an effective deterrent.

(xv) Systematic training of the Special Intelligence Branch of the RPF, in the matter of collection, collation and dissemination of Intelligence, regarding activities of terrorists and extremists targeting Railway in general and the RPF in particular, also need to be arranged.

(xvi) Whenever RPF/RPSF personnel are deployed for express/passenger train escorting duties, they should carry only short barrel weapons like Machine Carbines/Pistols 9 mm (DG/RPF's D.O. L. No. 97/Sec(Spl)/20/1 dated 23/2/98 in this regard, refers).

(B) GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:-

- (i) There should be identification, with a pride in the image of the Force.
- (ii) The staff should always remain mentally alert and cautious, but at the same time be polite with the public.
- (iii) Armed staff should deem themselves as 'Targets' right from the time of drawing weapons from the kote, till

depositing the same after completion of duty. In present situation, no place is free from potential Arms snatchers. Mixing personal work with Armed duties, invite trouble.

- (iv) Bunching of staff make them easy targets for burst-fire. This should be avoided, especially in the extremist infested areas.
- (v) In 'tactical' or 'Quarter Guard' deployments, the weapons should be in the charge of individual staff. Even in peace areas, staff should be given this practice to keep them alert.
- (vi) Each staff will perform duty 'only with the weapon issued to him specifically'. The practice of using the same Rifle/Carbine by the santries, keeping the other weapons inside the Guard Room, should be eradicated.
- (vii) Sterility of Quarter Guard should be maintained. Only those staff and supervisors who are actually deployed there on duty, should have access. No outsider, even the RPF/RPSF staff who are not on duty there, should be allowed anywhere near the Quarter Guard.
- (viii) System of 'back-up guard' (Dhafa System) should be introduced in sensitive areas. In highly sensitive occasions, it may go even upto 1/3rd of the strength.
- (ix) The Kote-Incharge should not be less than HC for Armouries storing upto 100 weapons, and ASI for bigger Armouries.

- (x) Proper strong rooms for Kotes at all posts (and out-posts holding weapons) should be ensured. Where not available, special 'work orders' to provide them on war footing, should be got sanctioned by the Railways. Kotes should always be under the Guard of an Armed Sentry.
- (xi) Boxes/almirahs meant for storing pistols in the Kote or in the Armoury, should be embedded in the walls or fastened to the ground.
- (xii) Appropriate pouches, holsters(leather/canvas/synthetics) should be got designed, procured and supplied. Carbines will require pouches for spare magazines and safety holster for gun-magazine etc. But, such equipment should facilitate free use of the weapon, change of magazines and re-loading of ammunition.
- (xiii) Slings and attaching chains should be provided and usage ensured. The slings and chains should facilitate free movement of limbs and quick use of weapon.
- (xiv) Armpit holsters should be issued to the staff deployed for intelligence work. They should also be provided with .32" bore Pistols, so as to enable them to hide their weapons effectively.
- (xv) While moving inside the coach or on platforms, the Arms should either be kept in pouch/holster or slung on the shoulder, so that these are not exposed. However, staff should be alert enough to use the weapon any time.

- (xvi) Armed RPF/RPSF staff should never move alone. To avoid this, standing instructions should be issued to deposit Arms and Ammunition at the nearest RPF/RPSF Kote. Tie-up with GRP for extending this facility on mutual basis, may also be examined.
- (xvii) Staff should be educated to keep distance from the public. This is necessary to avoid succumbing to temptations. Familiarization and hospitality if extended by anyone with the purpose to snatch weapons, should be discouraged. Staff should always be aware of any person coming close in trains, in circulating area or on platforms etc. so as to avoid any foul play, because, once a person is close enough, even small weapons are enough to neutralize automatic weapons.
- (xviii) Duties of the Force are increasingly in populated places requiring compact weapons. Carbines/Pistols/Revolvers only, should therefore be issued to the Express/Passenger 'train escorting staff' and to the 'Cash Escorting' staff. Rifles may, however, be partly issued to the staff on 'Goods Train Escorting' or 'fixed point guarding' duties – where the staff may have to engage the enemy at longer ranges.
- (xix) For station guarding/track patrolling duties in sensitive areas, especially if there is an open space, 7.62 mm SLRs should be provided at the rate of 2 per section, as a support weapon. In places where more than 2 sections are deployed, the feasibility of mounting an L.M.G. at a vantage point, should be studied and implemented.

- (xx) Arms should not be held or displayed in such a way, that it may cause inconvenience to the public or may create panic/fear amongst them.
- (xxi) Weapons should always remain in the custody of the staff concerned. These are not to be left on the seat/berth unattended to. At least one staff should always be present to take care of the Arms. While taking rest too, the Arms & Ammunition should be properly secured.
- (xxii) There may be some passengers curious to have look at the Arms. Staff should avoid obliging such persons.
- (xxiii) Friends or any casual acquaintance shall not be allowed to handle the Arms, even for fun.
- (xxiv) No one should be threatened with the weapons, even if provoked.
- (xxv) Staff carrying arms shall not take part in any game of leisure (playing cards/gambling) either with the public or with the Railway employees in the train or on platform, or act as mediator in any quarrel etc.
- (xxvi) There may be many attractions during the course of long journey of train escorting. Staff should be educated to always remain alert and not to get diverted by any curious things.

(xxvii) No member of the trains escort party should move here and there alone with arms.

(xxviii) No one shall be allowed to retain Arms while not on duty. In no case, Arms will be allowed to be kept in Qtrs. or residences of any officer or other ranks.

(xxix) No Armed member of the duty party should visit nearby villages or colonies of the area, to witness any cultural show etc.

(xxx) Duties should be performed in close co-ordination with the other forces if any, and the Railway employees on duty. The staff be educated that they should never be misguided by rumours. Firing with a weapon should rather be the last resort.

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11/2000

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(HARIDAS RAO)
DIRECTOR GENERAL/RPF
RAILWAY BOARD.

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