

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 2D BRIGADE, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96225

AVDCSB-A

13 January 1969

SUBJECT: Use of TNT Charges on Bridge Security

TO: Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion(Mech), 5th Infantry
Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 12th Infantry
Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 14th Infantry
Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry
Commanding Officer, 2d Battalion, 24th Armor

1. Reference Confidential Letter, this headquarters, dated 10 Dec 68, Subject: Use of Grenades in Bridge Defense.
2. It has once again been brought to the attention of this headquarters that all necessary safety precautions are not being followed in the preparation and use of TNT blocks in bridge security. To assist the commanders responsible for bridge security in implementing these procedures, all levels of command involved will review the above letter referenced. Extreme emphasis should be placed on the following aspects of this type operation:
 - a. Primary cause of such accidents can usually be attributed to carelessness on the part of the individual using the charges.
 - b. Individuals who handle these explosives should be given formal instruction by qualified personnel prior to actual utilization of demolitions.
 - c. Personnel using TNT charges will be physically supervised by senior NCO's and officers.
 - d. All personnel should be informed of the inherent dangers involved in using TNT charges.
 - e. Particular attention should be paid to the use of fuse lighters and throwing the charge immediately upon pulling the fuse lighter the first time, regardless of whether or not it makes a sound or begins to smoke.
 - f. Continual refresher training courses should be given to all personnel working with or around TNT charges.
3. Addressees will place continual command emphasis on all safety factors involved in the use of TNT charges.

FOR THE COMMANDER

GERALD J. MAHAIKO
Major, Infantry
Adjutant